

150 Years of An Illustrated Journey

# FRONTIER

# PIONEERS

Darbyville  
McClenny  
and  
all of  
Baker County

"When we go, others will come  
but there will be no one left  
to remember how it was for us."

- Thornbirds



LaViece Smallwood Moser



SONG TO GO

Lyrics and Music by  
Chace Kerce

Be it ev-er so hum-ble, or a man-sion on the hill, my  
heart keeps on re - turn - ing, and I guess it al - ways will to the  
fa-ces I will on - to, and the places I am drawn to, for  
they will al - ways be home, to me. Home, to  
me, is more than a mem - o - ry of days gone  
by, and the way life used to be. It's more than a  
spot on God's green earth, place of birth, It's the



**DARBYVILLE**







**McCLENNY**

*Home to Me!*



Words and Music by  
Deborah Chase Kester

Be it ev-er so hum-ble, or a man-sion on the hill, my  
heart keeps on re - turn - ing, and I guess it al - will to the  
fa-ces I hold on - to, and the pla - ces I am drawn to, for  
they will al - ways be home, to me. Home, to  
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spot on God's green earth, a place of earth, It's the







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Front cover: Picture of Charles C. Corbett formally of Vermont. He is looking north at the corner of McClenny Avenue and SR 121. Mr. Corbett's home is behind him in the upper right side of the photo. It is still standing at the printing of this publication. Before he moved from Vermont, he was a funeral director and stone cutter. When he came to Baker County with his wife, Zilphia Crowningshield, he was said to be the first known funeral director in the county. When he died, his granddaughter, Ida Estelle, took over the profession. The old records of many burials within the county, and in many cases the only record made of the person's death, were left in her custody. Many of the county's older grave markers were engraved by him. Rhoden and Greene boarding homes can be seen to the far right.

Former BC sheriff, Joe Newmans, once lived in the tall two story home to the far right.

Back cover: John D. McCormick (1875-1958) and Lillie Deliah (Leigh) Thomas McCormick (1888-1940).

Inside Front Cover, Song, "*Home To Me*" written by Debbie Chace for the 1990 County-wide homecoming. She is the daughter of Alvin Canova Chace and his wife Alzada Douberly Chace of Columbia County, Florida. Debbie's song has been recorded and used to warm hearts when hometown events bring Baker Countians home again from all over the world. From page one, beginning on the right side at the bottom of the photo is Isabel Vining, second row left Sarah Raulerson Saucer, Gedone Raulerson Prachar, Chuck Prachar. Third row Faye and Dickie Davis in red, LaViece Moore Smallwood (with flag shirt) and granddaughter, Cassie Smallwood (red, white and blue shirt).

Inside Back Cover "Old Fashioned Baptism" no identification available.

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Owners of Drummond Press, Diane Falconetti and her son, John Falconetti, are direct descendants of the prominent Baker County Canova family of Sanderson.

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# From the office of THE GOVERNOR



Rick Scott  
Governor of Florida



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

January 31, 2014

Dear Friends:

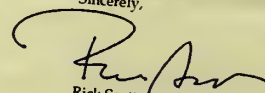
As Governor of the Sunshine State, it is my pleasure to congratulate Baker County on your 150 Years of an Illustrated Journey. Baker County holds many historic treasures and is an important part of Florida's rich history.

Your community's success can be attributed to the dedicated public service of many conscientious residents, including recently retired City Manager Gerald Dopson and Mayor Gary Dopson, M.D. I commend you all and offer congratulations on your accomplishments.

In many ways, the well-being of the Sunshine State is connected to the proud past and bright future of communities like Baker County. So that the people of your community can succeed, I am focused on three goals for our state: making Florida the No. 1 place for businesses to succeed, keeping the cost of living low for families and businesses, and making sure our schools prepare students for the career or college of their dreams. As a result, Florida is headed in the right direction.

Best wishes for a memorable and successful 150th anniversary year.

Sincerely,

  
Rick Scott  
Governor

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# FOREWORD

Author, LaViece Smallwood Moser, has a passion for people. She loves to listen and learn the stories of people's lives. Even more, she feels called to capture the heritage of people from the past and help them come alive again to present and future generations.

LaViece has a God-given talent for writing, and she has used it well. During the 1970s, when I was the food editor of the Florida Times-Union, I recommended that the newspaper give LaViece the opportunity to write a freelance column about genealogy. It was a subject close to her heart. Since she had done extensive research on her own family tree, she could answer questions and recommend resources that would be helpful to the many others who had recently become interested in their family heritage, thanks to the 1977 hit television series, *Roots*. Times-Union Editor, Elvin Henson, agreed. LaViece wrote her weekly column, *Out on a Limb: The Family Tree*, from 1976 to 1998. It was one of the most popular columns that the newspaper ever had.



LaViece has more energy and accomplishments than any woman I know! Included are her 10 books about the people of Baker County. These are her people. She grew up there, has retired there, and loves telling the stories of the extended families who lived there.

Now, with this latest volume, LaViece provides quick, easy-to-read portraits of Baker County's earliest pioneers. She includes interesting details that make these people come alive. For example, we learn that Elisha Greene, leader of the first wagon train to Baker County, was a tall man with black hair and blue eyes, "a characteristic of the many descendants of the Greene family still living in Baker County today." The photographs of these early families—barefoot children, long-bearded men, women with faces from plain to regal—make this book a real "page-turner."

I met LaViece when she was working at Kuhn's Flowers on Beach Boulevard, one of Jacksonville's premier flower stores at the time. She greeted me at the counter with her kind, warm smile, and drew me into conversation. When she heard my story—that I was new in town, had no family there, was 27 years old, had a new job at the Times-Union but couldn't move into my new apartment yet—she invited me to stay with her family. Although I was in her home only a few weeks, our acquaintance didn't end there. For 40 years, LaViece and I have remained the closest of friends, and I am truly honored to write this foreword.

LaViece Smallwood Moser cares about people—both past and present. You'll feel this as you enjoy the fascinating stories and pictures of the *Frontier Pioneers*.

Nancy Glover Verdier

*The Florida Times-Union*, Food Editor, 1974-1981

Writer, book editor, educational resource developer, 1981-2014





*Mack Eugene Moser*

February 3, 1929 - August 1, 2014

*To Mack*

*My eternal soul mate*

*whose Christ-like love and attributes won him  
the respect and trust of all who knew him*



## Meet the Author

# LA VIECE SMALLWOOD MOSER

*LaViece Smallwood Moser is a 5th generation Baker Countian and was born south of Glen St. Mary on February 22, 1935, at the farm home of her maternal grandparents, Thomas Brantly and Rosanna LeNora Roberts Fraser. Her parents were Carl Benjamin "Dinty" and Blanche Fraser Moore. LaViece graduated from McClenny-Glen High School in 1953 as an honor student. During high school, she was a cheerleader, editor of the school newspaper, president of the Beta Club, and a member of the homecoming court. In her senior year, she was voted "Most Popular" and "Best All-Around Senior". After graduation, LaViece was married for 55 years to Zackary Vincent Smallwood, who retired as Major with the Florida Highway Patrol. They are the parents of three children, thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.*

*For 22 years, LaViece wrote feature stories and a popular syndicated column: "Out on a Limb: The Family Tree" for The Florida Times Union in Jacksonville, Florida. She was the first genealogical columnist in the nation to receive an "Award of Merit" from the National Genealogical Society "in recognition of her distinguished work in American Genealogy." LaViece was the first Floridian to be presented the coveted Martha Washington "Good Citizenship Award for Community Service". She is recognized in the First and Second Editions of "Who's Who in American Genealogy".*

*In the 1982 edition of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church Almanac, LaViece is listed among the Prominent Professional Women of the Church. In 1985, she was selected to help lay the cornerstone for the Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies for Brigham Young University (BYU) in Jerusalem, Israel. In 1998, Barbara Barrington Jones, a national family counselor, selected LaViece to be an advisor for her BYU women's retreat, A*

*New You, in Laie, Hawaii. LaViece is the author of many books, pamphlets, and booklets on Baker County's history. She authored a six volume book series entitled "Once Upon a Lifetime in Baker County, Florida"; "Baker's Dozen, Vol. 1"; and "First You Kill the Hawg" (a 371 page historical cookbook). Also, she authored a two volume book series of historical studies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the southern United States: "Salt of the South, Vol. 1: The Trailblazers" and "Salt of the South, Vol. 2: The Converts." LaViece envisioned, developed, and served as Executive Director of Heritage Park Village, a three and a half acre historical park that houses Baker County's legacy. She was honored by David E. Ferro, Deputy State Historical Preservation Officer, who said about Heritage Park Village: "This is the best historical park of its kind I've seen." Walt Marder, Deputy State Historical Preservationist Officer, said the Village was "the best of its kind in Florida." In 2012, for her extensive work and exhaustive hours developing Heritage Park Village, LaViece was nominated for the prestigious "Eve Award" by the Florida Times Union.*

*LaViece has been a community volunteer since she was a teen-ager. Her honors and tributes are numerous from every community where she has lived. A few of her awards include an "Award of Merit" from the State of Florida for her "work in safety"; "Certificate for Meritorious Service" from the Florida Dept. of Public Safety "in recognition of outstanding effort to preserve human life on Florida Streets and highways"; "Outstanding Civic Service Award" from Marion County, Florida. She was named to the Florida Women's Safety Advisory Board by State Insurance Commissioner, Broward Williams. She worked with Marion County, Florida, Chamber of Commerce to organize Bike-Ways for Citizens; served as Safety Chairman for five county school districts; served on executive boards for local, county, regional and state Parent-Teacher Organizations; and organized a Bicycle Rodeo Program that was selected as the Florida State PTA's National Success Story. She was selected by Florida Governor, Claude Kirk, to serve on the State of Florida Executive Board and Advisory Committee.*

*LaViece was greatly involved in the establishment of a national law to prevent taxi drivers from delivering death messages to families during war-time. She worked with and was instrumental in assisting the City of Jacksonville, Florida, in abolishing smoking in hospitals and other public places. Her ideas for future development of Jacksonville were enclosed in the corner stone of the newly consolidated government building.*

*Today, LaViece tremendously enjoys living in her home town of McClenny, Florida.*





## Meet the Editor

# GAIL SMALLWOOD CAPSHAW



*Linda Gail Smallwood Capshaw is a fourth generation Floridian who was raised in Ocala, Florida. In the sixth grade, she developed a lasting love for English grammar, reading, writing, and editing. As she raised her three daughters, she instilled in each of them a love for reading and writing. Even today, Gail works with her oldest granddaughter in Las Vegas, Nevada, with her complex and challenging writing for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, which is an international honors academic curriculum for exceptionally gifted high school students around the world.*

*Gail graduated with honors in the Top Ten from Ocala High School in 1968. She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts, Sociology degree from University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 1996, at the same time her youngest daughter graduated from high school. Gail was inducted into four national honor societies and served as secretary for the Golden Key National Honor Society. In 2003, while enduring four major surgeries and chemotherapy for cancer, Gail graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Science, Marriage and Family Services degree from Capella University. Her writing and editing skills and abilities were greatly enhanced through this 3-year*

*graduate course of study which required extensive research, creativity, writing, and editing using both APA and MLA writing styles. Several of Gail's personal historical writings have been published and she individually compiled and published a family historical and pictorial cookbook.*

*In 1984, Gail married Roy Don Capshaw, in Orlando, Florida, and spent most of her adult life being a full time mother and enjoys six wonderful grandchildren. She worked as a technical writer and editor for McGraw-Hill Publishing Company. Gail was group facilitator for technical workshop sessions with renowned Subject Matter Experts from the United States and Canada to determine the technical content for the educational materials. From start to finish, for copyright and publishing, Gail prepared student manuals, which included annotated figures, detailed illustrations, and color photographs. For each student manual, she prepared the instructor guide with detailed PowerPoint Presentations, including instructor notes.*

*For five years in Las Vegas, Nevada, Gail facilitated and taught Clark County, Family and Youth Services, Parenting Classes. Independently and as a team member, she prepared curriculum and course-related materials, which required skills in technical writing and editing. She was a member of the team that provided training for new programs and materials to other Certified Professional Trainers. Gail was honored to be selected from among 25 exceptional instructors to be a Trainer of Trainers.*



## Meet the Graphic Designer

# MICKI BARKER

Micki Barker was born Melina Gay Toler in Louisa, Kentucky where the Tug and the Big Sandy Rivers meet. Raised in Inez, the eastern most point of Kentucky. Born a "Coal Miner's Daughter" on December 19, 1969 to Cecil "Wirt" and Wilma "Cricket" Anderson Toler, she was the baby of six daughters. The Tolers lived up in a "holler" where her mother's family settled at least 100 years before. Nicknamed "Micki" when she was a baby, she was the last attempt at a boy for the two devout Christians. She had a wonderful childhood growing up with lots of cousins, nieces & nephews. They worked in the garden so that there was plenty enough food for the cold winters in the mountains. "Inez is a very small town but a pretty good place to grow up" she says. She went to school with the same children year after year and graduated in 1987 from Sheldon Clark High School at the age of 17. She worked at the only fast food restaurant in the whole county all during her high school years while maintaining good grades and staying active in the Key Club, Marching Band and Chorus. She played the flute and also learned to play the piano "by ear" when she was eleven and remained the church choir pianist until she left home at 18 years old.

Micki began her career with the local newspaper "The Martin County Mercury" directly after graduation having written a column there during her high school years. She began typing the articles and selling ads but was soon swept away with the layout and design of the pages and the advertisements. Micki soon moved on to work in a printshop in a neighboring town and ultimately got a job in Lexington, Kentucky (home of the University of Kentucky Wildcats) and moved to the city alone at 19 years old with a suitcase in the back of her pick-up truck. Micki went on to work for the largest most successful printing factory in the city.

After a few years, the 21 year old met her husband Chris Barker at a neighbor's house and the two married six months later on March 18, 1991. Chris, the son of John Barker and Jodie Tucker Barker Gartin, was also a child of a coal minor. He and Micki were from neighboring towns back east in the mountains. Chris had a similar upbringing and they loved each other and worked hard every day. They moved to Charleston, South Carolina that year (where Chris' mother still lives today) and very quickly had a daughter named LaChrissa. Micki had a son named Pablo Garcia "Nando" a few years later during a time when the marriage to Chris was estranged. She and Chris were reunited and remairried in 2001. They are still together today and reside in Lake City, Florida where they have worked and lived since 2005. Chris spent most of his life in the underground utility industry and Micki has 28 years as a graphic designer in the commercial printing industry. She was one of the designers on "First You Kill The Hawg" the Baker County Sesquicentennial Cookbook by LaViece Smallwood Moser. She worked at Hunter Printing for 6 years and while employed there she did the graphic design for the Baker County High School football program seasons 2010 through 2013. She currently serves on the Graphic Design Advisory Board at Florida Gateway College.

These days, Micki stays busy as the owner of Gateway Preservation Pro's, LLC, a foreclosure cleanout and property preservation business. She still accepts graphic design jobs on a "freelance" basis but she and Chris hope to be very successful in their new endeavor. They are the proud grandparents of Miss Gabriella Ali Bourgeois, affectionately known as "Bri". She is their daughter LaChrissa's three year old who brings lots of joy to their lives. LaChrissa is now 22 years old and works in customer service at Direct TV. Nando is 17 years old and will graduate next spring (2015) from Ft. Dorchester High School in North Charleston, South Carolina where he resides with his father. The Barker household enjoys football and Nascar, spending time together and visiting their families back in Kentucky and South Carolina.





*Through all generations of time, the world has given us many extraordinary people. Wilma Cook Morris was one of them.*

**THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO HER.**



# **WILMA MORRIS**

Wilma embraced life. Her path was unique. Her energy formed a pattern. She accepted life's every moment as opportunities to triumph. She was productive. She knew success would not come if we do nothing. Consistency to her was crucial and she was blessed with the gift of determination. She danced to her own step and sang to her own tune. She did courageous things. She was inspired by life around her. She sought the most inspiring individuals to commune with. She built her own legacy with purpose. She followed the path that made her feel passionate about each day she lived. She was not envious. She relished in the achievements of others. Her spirit was magnetic to those who sought a mentor, an example, the path to their own personal greatness. She believed in herself and she believed in others. Wilma knew that belief is a free resource that is available to everyone. She knew it cannot be bought or sold but it can be learned. She sought education. She sought knowledge. Once Wilma identified her goals, she began the task of preparing herself for her journey.





*Wilma & her brother Willard*



*Wilma  
as a  
young  
woman*



*Wilma wearing dress she made for the  
first Miss McClenney Pageant which she  
won (1930) and modeled at the 1987  
Baker County Wide Homecoming*

And she almost did it all. When fate knocked on her door and said, "It's over", she felt remorse that one important goal had not been completed. The one goal she didn't have time to finalize would be left undone.

It wasn't enough to have the dream. Although she could have accomplished it on her own potential and spirit driven desire, someone else held the key.

Wilma's desire was to publish a book of photographs that tell the story of Baker County's beginning, a book with images of Baker County's pioneers. Her large collection of photographs had been borrowed during the county's 1961 centennial celebration. They were never returned. Because some were one of a kind, she had no way to retrieve her treasured photographs.

For many years, I have gathered thousands of historical photographs. The late Carl Mobley copied my collection of photographs onto his website. The State of Florida Historical Photographic Archives copied my collection onto their website. To this day, I continuously gather more historical photographs. Wilma's dream and vision was to make the images more available. She felt that to open a book and leisurely browse page after page of images, to touch them, to study the profiles, was more inspiring. And now, because my dear friend, Wilma Cook Morris, did not get to complete her dream, my pleasure is to do it for her.

It is my hope that this extraordinary woman's life and dream for the people of Baker County, whom she dearly loved and respected, will live on in this work that meant so much to her.



*Wilma and Jesse Frank Morris*



*LaViece Smallwood Moser  
2014*



**A HOMETOWN  
TRIBUTE TO  
THE DOPSON  
BROTHERS**

*Son's of*



**Herod & Murel Rhoden Dopson**





## **GERALD AND GARY**

*Whose exemplary service to the  
people of Baker County has become Legend.*



# "GERALD"



Gerald Dopson

Gerald Dopson was born on May 20, 1942, in McClenny, Florida, to James Herod and Murel Rhoden Dopson and was raised on a farm northwest of Sanderson. On the farm, he learned the value of hard work and dependability, along with his brother and sisters. It was here that he began to develop a lifelong love of farming that he continued in the 70's and 80's with Woodrow Rhoden and Jackie Raulerson, planting soybeans and corn. Gerald would later use skills developed in farming to not only help his hunting club attract bucks, but also to see people around him grow and become better at what they did. He would also use the humor that his dad imparted to him to laugh and bring some lightness to even the most challenging situations.

Gerald also learned some valuable lessons from his mama, Murel. She was the one who brought the family to the awareness of God and His love for us. She was also the one instrumental in imparting to Gerald his most valuable personal quality: a heart and mind for wisdom. She provided him a living

example of how to respect those around him and to do what is right. He would use this gift of wisdom to help his family, help guide the city to positively relate to others, and to remember always where he came from. He was also wise enough to know that he was not perfect and he doesn't act like it nor demand it of others....he had a lifelong ability to demonstrate forgiveness.



Murel Rhoden Dopson



In school, Gerald quickly began to develop a talent for sports. He enjoyed basketball and football, but in high school he began to excel at football. He had the privilege of playing on the basketball team, and it was there that he met Coach Mike Gazdick and Russell Porterfield, an Assistant Coach who had a positive impact on him. Gerald also learned under the football coach, Mr. Tom Covington. He would later say that Mr. Covington was one of the men he most admired, and the examples Mr. Covington set

would remain with him throughout his life. His quarterbacking skills gained him an opportunity to play college ball, and he left home for Hardin- Simmons University in 1961. He had fallen in love with a young lady at Baker County High School named Brenda Rhoden, and his football days would be numbered as the call to return to his family and to marry Brenda ensured his return to McClenny.



Gerald & Brenda Dopson

Gerald took a job with Chevrolet Motor Division in Jacksonville, and he quickly advanced in the ranks. The company offered him a director's job in Sarasota, Florida, and just prior to accepting and moving away, the City Manager position in McClenny became available. Gerald and Brenda decided it was best to stay in McClenny near his mom and dad, and they eventually moved into the very house his grandfather had built in the 1930's, located right beside his parents.

When Gerald began his 43 years with the City of McClenny, the only property owned by the City was the land where City Hall was located at 103 McClenny Avenue and the City Ice Plant located on West Blvd. The City Fire Department and the City Police Department were at the same location. In addition, the City elections were held there until the late 1970s. During the early years, there were no businesses on 121 South, 40% of residents had no water or sewer, and McClenny had no sidewalks. When he left, businesses were thriving on 121 South, all residents of McClenny had water and sewer, and McClenny had sidewalks and curbs throughout much of the city.



Brenda, Gerald & Murel Dopson 1976

In the 1980's, Gerald and the City Commissioners led the efforts to build 2 new water tanks in North and South McClenny, and the City embarked on improving housing for city residents. They condemned approximately 250 unsafe and inadequate housing facilities. Most of these



Gary, Herod & Gerald Dopson





Gerald Dopson as McClenny City Manager

"shotgun" style homes were replaced with code compliant homes. In 1981, the City started contracted police services with the Baker County Sheriff's Department. This move enabled the remodeling of City Hall, and added a new building and zoning department as part of the expansion. During this decade, the City acquired a tract of land parallel to the railroad track on SR23-A and south Lowder Street that had been previously entrusted to the Baker County Historical Society to construct a historical park by the Baker County Development Commission. The City had earlier moved the long abandoned depot to the area for preservation.



Hugh Fish, Gary Dopson, Jimmy Yarborough, Tommy Johns, Gerald Dopson, Tim Starling, Coach Tom Covington Sitting



Gerald walking beside of the Depot during it's journey to Heritage Park Village

In the 1990's, the City purchased land that would become parking for the city firehouse and for the Council on Aging.

Gerald also worked with community members to start the lighted Christmas parade. In the early years, his faithful helper, Mr. Buddy Dugger, managed the parade. It quickly became a big favorite with the community and still continues annually to this day.

Gerald always believed that his successes came from the people around him, and in early 2000, Laviece Smallwood (Moser), an accomplished historian, author, and journalist volunteered to create a facility to preserve the valued heritage of our community. Gerald knew her drive and commitment to the County, the City, and especially to the historical legacy of our residents would be the perfect community leader to create something lasting and meaningful for the heritage of Baker Countians.

Through Laviece's inspiration, creativity, and resourcefulness, twenty-five museums housing the county's historical legacy were constructed on the property. This included a block fortress still standing in north Baker County that had been built by the government, circa 1821, on orders of Governor Andrew Jackson to provide safety for early pioneers. In 2005, the preservation department of the State of Florida declared Heritage Park Village to be the best and most efficiently constructed and organized historical community park in the State of Florida. The City acquired several grants to repair the Block fortress and today it is a rare piece of our nation's history and a national treasure to all American citizens. Each year the City wraps the park in glittering lights as a gift to all citizens to welcome in the Christmas season.

Gerald had a great helper along the way in his wife, Brenda. She is the one steady force who loved him and supported him all the way. Brenda has been a driving force in the success of their family, their children, and now their grandchildren, and Gerald and Brenda went on an Alaskan cruise with friends and family courtesy of generous City employees. Gerald and Brenda will have the memories of the friends, family, and great citizens of our City and County to lean on as they move forward.



Brenda & Gerald Dopson Lake Tahoe

In the last fifteen years, Gerald has seen God do amazing things for his family and for others. Only a few short years ago, Gerald suffered a major heart attack. Except for the persistence of Gordon Crews, the medical staff at Ed Fraser hospital, the work of countless doctors at St. Vincents, and mainly, the prayers of his family and friends, Gerald would not be with us. Doctors count his recovery a miracle, and his family is incredibly grateful for these wonderful years to enjoy dad.....here's to many more!!

Gerald has enjoyed retirement, plans to keep planting buck bait in Fairview, and enjoys serving on the Florida Gateway College Foundation. He also enjoys spending time with his sisters, and his best friend, his brother, Dr. Gary Dopson. He's proud of his children, Brian(Carrie), Brad(Cathy), Amy(Timmy), and Brett(Cathy). He's also proud of his beautiful grandchildren: Garrett, Kelly, Hannah, Taylor, Kellen, Kyle, Reagan, Brysen, Sara, Ava, and Colby.



Herod And Murel (Rhoden) Family, Front Row: Gerald Dopson, Eugene Long (husband of Ina Faye), Gary Dopson 2nd row left to right Vonceil Dopson Melton, Patricia Dopson Bellinger, Ina Faye Dopson Long, Mary Lee Dopson, Muriel Rhoden Dopson Brenda Rhoden Dopson (wife of Gerald)



Brad, Amy, Brian and Brett (sitting) Dopson. Children of Gerald & Brenda Dopson



# "DOC"



*James Herod Dopson*

Gary was born at home, in McClenny, Florida, on May 24, 1944, to Murel Rhoden Dopson and James Herod Dopson. He had four sisters, Voncille, Ina Faye, Mary Lee and Patricia, and one brother Gerald. His maternal Grandparents were Shephard Rhoden and Minnie Ruis Rhoden. His paternal grandparents were Alvia Dopson and Mary Harvey Dopson.

Gary believes that God blessed him when he allowed him to be born into such a good and loving family. That love and respect for each other and God helped to mold his journey for the rest of his life.

Gary did not start out liking school. After his sister left him in his classroom, he would run all the way back home to be with his beloved Grandmother, Mary Dopson. His father Herod convinced him he would go to school. He learned to study, work hard, and respect his elders as well as all others. It also helped that in the Student Handbook under Punishment, rule number 3 stated, "A paddling with a board laid on with gusto".

Gary graduated from Baker County High School in the class of 1962, where he achieved high academic honors, was the President of the Student Council, and lettered in the sports of football, basketball, baseball, and track.

To have spending money in high school and pay for college, Gary held many jobs. Among other jobs, he worked summers at Fraser's Nursery, Winn Dixie Production Plant, Bobby Sapp Plumbing, and Ray Odom's department store. He cleaned Paul's Rexall Drug Store before going to school in the mornings.

After graduation Gary attended the newly formed Lake City Junior College and Forest Ranger School. Gary was able to attend because the Baker County School Board provided a school bus for student transportation. Times were tough. Both parents worked, but they could not afford transportation cost. During his time at Lake City, he became the first President of Student Government, and graduated from the first class of Lake City Junior College in 1964. Gary is proud to be a graduate and has promoted the college to many young people. He has often provided support for deserving students who might not have otherwise been able to afford college. In 2008, Gary was awarded The Lake City Community College Distinguished Alumni Award.

In the fall of 1964, Gary transferred to the University of Florida, where he majored in chemistry and minored in biology. He graduated from the UF College of Medicine in 1970. He has continued to support the college in different ways. He and his wife have been Bull Gators for the past 20 years.



*Gary & Veda Dopson*

Gary and Veda Lauren Fish were married on July 29, 1967, in the Glen Baptist Church of Glen St. Mary, Florida, where they were both members. They have two sons, Douglas Gary born July 12, 1971, and Christopher Gary born December 5, 1972. Chris married Stacey Guerry. She became the daughter they had always wished for. They now have four beautiful granddaughters named Brittnee, Haley, Sydney, and Lexey. Gary and Veda celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary on July 29, 2014.

After completing medical school, internship, and residency, Gary set up a family practice in McClenny where he worked for 35 years. During his first 11 years he delivered babies, covered the emergency room, and made home visits.

Gary worked with Iris Parish to organize and put into operation the first Baker County Rescue Service. He also served as medical director for the Rescue Service for a number of years.



*In the photos above are Gary in 1950, Gary and his grandmother Mary Dopson, Gary with his baby sister Patricia and then of course Gary and Veda's boys Douglas and Christopher*





*Chris and Stacy Dopson*

Many lives are saved by stabilization, care given, and transport to a tertiary hospital when needed.

Gary also has been the Chief of Primary Care Medicine at Northeast Florida State Hospital since September 2006.

Gary's service to his community and state extends well beyond his practice of medicine. He served in the Florida National Guard for 32 years, with the last 14 serving as State Surgeon for Florida, responsible for all things medical in the Florida Guard and special staff to the Adjutant General. While in the Florida Guard, he received many awards and recognitions including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, induction into the Military Order of Medical Merit, and twice received the highest medal awarded by the Florida National Guard, The Florida Cross.

He was a member of the Executive Council of the Medical Advisory Council representing all 54 states and territories of the United States. This group worked with the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. to help plan, develop, and implement medical policies and procedures for the National Guard. He retired with the rank of Colonel.



*Gary & Veda Dopson*

Gary was elected in 1979 to serve on the McClenny City Council. He has served 35 years, the last 14 as the city's Mayor. He served as Chairman of the Florida League of Cities Health Trust Fund Board and served on the League of Cities Legislative Committee.

He also served as Chairman of the Florida Health Cooperative which was created by the Florida Legislature.

Along with military and civic responsibilities, Gary was actively involved in the Baker County School System, performing free physicals for students and serving as the team physician for the Baker County Wildcat's football team for 40 years.

Gary was and is proud of his heritage. Everywhere he proudly proclaims he is from McClenny in Baker County, Florida. He has often said, "I love God, family, my community and my country, and I feel all have loved me back." Gary believes you never accomplish anything alone. Many people have given Gary a helping hand along the way. To many to name here, but they are in his heart, never to be forgotten.

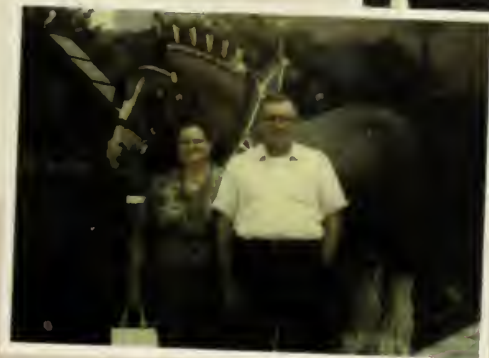
Gary is a deacon in the Glen Baptist Church of Glen St. Mary, Florida. He is a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a caring physician. Many patients in Baker County received treatment from him who were unable to pay for his services. He never turned them away. He would tell them, "You come in and see me. I don't care about that fee, I care about you." Folks in Baker County feel a genuine love for the man they affectionately call "Doc". He was one of their own who came back home to serve the community.

Ephesians 4:32

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."



*Gary and Veda's beautiful granddaughters l-r Brittnee, Lexey, Sydney & Haley Dopson 2013*



*In the photos above are Gary with his mother Murel and then Murel and Herod Dopson*



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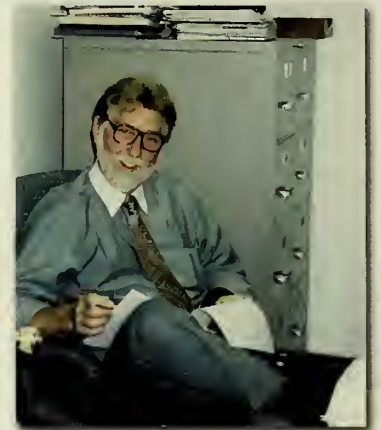


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Dennis Markos, CEO

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# LARRY DUPREE

*Baker Counties First All-American  
who passed away on Father's Day  
June 15, 2014,  
from a heart attack after being diagnosed  
with late stage lung cancer*



*From left to right: Jim Sidle, Auburn; Brian Piccolo (who also passed away from cancer), Wake Forest; Roger Staubach, Navy; Ken Willard, North Carolina; and Larry Dupree, Florida. All wait to find out who will start as "Running Back" for the South in  
**the All American Game played in 1964***



# IN THE BEGINNING

*It was an exciting adventure for the first Europeans who came ashore and set their foot on what was called at the time "the new world". It was a new beginning for them and as they settled in first one place and then another, it was really not a hardship as we would know it today. It was a way of life. As traditions merged and marriages united there appeared a new generation known as Americans, united, under one God and one constitution.*

*Moving from one location to another, looking for better soil, better advantages, and just a better and more advanced way of life, the new frontier pioneers chopped, hacked and forged their way north, south, east and west to find a place to settle and build communities.*

*Thus it was for a group of friends, family, in-laws and neighbors who followed their heart and instincts into what eventually would become Baker County.*

*It was Christmas Day 1829 according to Samuel Spearing, an educated slave belonging to one of the traveling pioneers, Elisha Greene, that the first wagon train of adventurous souls ventured into this primeval wilderness tired and weary. "They made a camp fire from the roots of a large pine tree whilst preparing a shelter for their families", he wrote.*

*In the group besides Elisha Greene was his wife, Elizabeth Wilkerson Greene, their six young children, Elisha's foster son, Daniel Greene, plus the Mann's, Wester's, Wilkerson's, James Hamilton Hill and the Barber's. At the time of their arrival, General Andrew Jackson was president of the United States. The general had led troops into Florida in 1814, and again in 1818, when Americans effectively took control of the territory. After formal secession of Florida from Spain to the United States in 1821, Jackson also served as military governor of the new American possession. Elisha named one of his sons Andrew in honor of the President.*

*Each member settled in various locations within the county. Moses BARBER remained in the location of Darbyville (later to be McClenny). Elisha GREENE, along with the MANN'S, WESTER'S, HILL'S, AND WILKERSON'S, settled in the Glen St. Mary and Sanderson areas. Each became a prominent citizen, some serving in the political arena, others as prominent farmers, cattlemen, turpentine producers, educators and business circles. Their children married and inter-married and today many local families can trace their roots, several times over, to these stalwart pioneers who inherited the right to be called proud Americans.*





# ELISHA GREENE FAMILY



## Second Wife

**Elizabeth Ann Driggers Greene**  
(30 Jun 1825-04 Jan 1905)  
affectionately known as Betsy  
Ann by husband Elisha Greene.  
Daughter of William and Millie  
Lastinger Parker Driggers.

*Slave papers for Samuel, negro slave of Elisha*  
BILL OF SALE.—Printed and sold by John C. The

The State of South Carolina.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I

James B. Padgett: Five hundred and  
for and in consideration of the sum of  
Twenty dollars

to and in hand paid, at and before the sealing and delivery of these  
Present, by James Green

(the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge) have bargained and sold,  
and by these presents, do bargain, sell, and deliver to the said James Green

A certain negro slave named Sam  
wanted sound in mind and  
body and warranted a slave for  
life

To Have and to Hold the said Slave Sam

unto the said James Green, his  
Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to have and to hold, only proper use and  
behalf, forever And I the said James B. Padgett, my

Executors, and Administrators, the said bargained premises unto the said James Green

his  
Executors, Administrators and Assigns, from and against all persons shall and will warrant  
and forever defend, by these presents.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal  
Dated at Charleston on the Twenty first day  
of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight  
hundred and fifty three and in the sixteenth  
year of the Independence of the United States of America.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED  
IN THE PRESENCE OF

*W. C. Lambidge*  
Slave Papers  
for Samuel  
Speering

Elisha Greene arrived in Baker County on Christmas Day in 1829, leading the first wagon train of pioneer settlers.

Acting as advance scouts were William and Mose Barber, and other men acting as guards. Others traveling in the train were the Westers, Wilkinsons, Barber and Mann families.

Elisha and his family settled on the South prong of the Saint Mary's River building a Palmetto hut for shelter until a log farm house could be constructed.

Elisha educated his slaves along with his children. They attended church with him and he paid them a modest salary allowing them to spend their earnings any way they desired. At the end of the Civil War, most of his slaves stayed on the farm to live and work. One slave, Samuel Spearing, left for Jacksonville at the encouragement of Elisha who recognized his potential and became a man of many accomplishments to include Florida State Representative.

Elisha Greene was an adventurous frontiersman exploring the uncharted Florida wilderness when it was primarily an Indian territory.

He was the son of Jacob Greene, an Irish immigrant. His birth in 1790 made him an American citizen instead of a British citizen as George Washington had been recently inaugurated president of the New American republic.

He was the father of 19 children, six by his first wife Elizabeth Wilkinson and 13 by his second wife Elizabeth Ann Driggers.

He fought in the Indian wars and uprisings and the war of 1812.

His army papers describe him as six feet three at the age of twenty-two with black hair and blue eyes, a characteristic of the many descendants of the Greene family still living in Baker County today. There are no known photographs of Elisha.

Elisha was a farmer first but also served as a county coroner and a county surveyor before moving to Baker County. He died at the age of 85 and is buried in the South Prong Cemetery, south of Sanderson, once known as Greene's Creek.



Anderson Greene & Family

L-R: Romey, Paul, William, Esco, Effie, Nettie, Mary, Andrew  
"Ander"



# SAMUEL SPEERING... A SLAVE

Samuel Spearing was a distinguished Sanderson Florida slave purchased by Elisha Greene, a pioneer farmer south of Sanderson in 1853. Elisha was a kind and respected "master". Each slave was allowed to choose a mate of preference. In addition to food and clothing, Elisha also paid a modest salary to those working on his farm to manage as they desired. Samuel was exceptionally bright and ambitious and became Elisha's trusted friend and general foreman. With the end of the Civil War, Elisha's slaves, now free, chose to remain on the Greene farm. Elisha encouraged Samuel to move to Jacksonville. Samuel agreed only if his master would promise to summon him at his death to dig his grave and speak at his funeral. The agreement was made. In Jacksonville, Samuel's intelligence and natural political ability served him well. In 1867 Spearing convened a meeting of 1,200 blacks. He served as a Justice of the Peace in Duval County as well as both councilman and treasure for La Villa. He served in the Florida Senate in 1874. He opened the first respectable grocery business of its kind on Bay Street in Jacksonville and on January 20, 1884, Spearing was elected an officer of the Grand Lodge of Florida (black Masons).

At the death of Elisha in 1875, Samuel was notified by telegraph. He promptly returned to Sanderson by train where he helped to dig his old master's grave. He also wrote Elisha's obituary which led Columbus Drew\*, a Jacksonville businessman and poet, to write and publish, "The Burial of the Master", which is closely linked to the relationship between Samuel the slave and Elisha the master.

## The Burial Of The Master

Age crept upon the man who once was master.  
He had not sought to win a lordly state  
Or wield a lordly arm; but all his ways  
Were pastoral and simple. By the plough,  
Its share held by his own untiring hand,  
He ran the furrow for long years beside  
The slave his toil had purchased. Others wrought  
In the same field, and also ploughed in turn,  
Each, in his time of ploughing, emulous  
To win the furrow race, and sharing each  
The kindly mastership of him who ran  
The long day through as fellow toiler.  
All owned their lot as something given of God.  
It came from the abyss of Eld - it was -  
And might be, or might not be, in the time  
Known as the Future - that abysmal deep  
O'er which clouds hover, and uncertainties  
That mock the mask of Wisdom. From the cloud  
The die may fall; it may be cast in storm,  
Like the fierce bolt that strikes the world with awe  
And deals twin mysteries of joy and woe.  
As little as we know the fates, they knew -  
Those double workers of a Master's will -  
That which to now was nothing - the To-Come.  
Age crept upon the Master. Years had run  
Their furrows even on his patient brow,  
There was no wide-tilled field, nor song from lips  
That sweetened labor, spreading to his view,  
Or making glad his heart as in life's spring;  
The laborer had departed, and the host  
Was only Master of a heart self-schooled.  
The bolt had broken from the cloud that wrapt  
The dark To-Come, and with it fell as dust  
The bond that bound the master to the slave;  
And as the dust falls lightly, and appears  
Like slow-descending particles of gold  
In the long gleam that through the crevice steals,  
So between these the ligament dissolves,  
Flecking the distant space that intervened  
Each lot in life with golden memories.  
Such golden memories were the only wealth  
Left to the patient Master; and as age

Warned him of that still solemn seal unbroke -  
The last in life's apocalypse - he sent  
Now for his steadfast friend, his servant once,  
And said, "When I am dead I bid you dig  
My grave and be with those who bury me."  
And the slave bowed, in spirit re-enthralled!  
And soon the crisis came; the message sent  
To the one bidden, on the wire, was like  
The message to the Master, waited for,  
As those who, "ready," wait, when all is well.  
Soon by the couch of him who won again  
The name of Master, when the trial came  
Between his spirit-being and the grave,  
Stood the surrounding helpmates of the noon  
Of that good life the evening's sleep had crowned;  
For he who chief was bidden had conveyed  
The Master's call to all the rest he loved  
Of his old servants. Then they bore him where  
The grave their faithful hands for him had made,  
Beneath the pines of fadeless funeral plumes,  
Or resinous censors to perfume the blest.  
If the green earth environing the spot  
Those duteous hands assigned for the last sleep  
Of him, the honored sleeper; were a lake  
Still and unruffled as an evening sky,  
And o'er its surface rose a crystal fane  
Which angel hands had built with plummet line -  
A roofless fane, with inner walls complete,  
If aught so like a ruin could be left  
By spirit builders as a finished thing -  
And in the depths below the symmetry  
Of inner wall as bright as in the air  
Appeared, it could not be more square and true  
Than was the sepulchre these willing bands  
Prepared for him. The service was the last.  
'Twas labor-love returned, not with the song  
Of ploughing', but the faith the furrow-seed  
They planted there would bear eternal bloom.  
With careful hands they laid the dead below,  
I And when the preacher spoke the solemn thought,  
That man, in going, gives but "dust to dust,"  
Each from his palm, as though there were its type

In the new contact, three times cast the clay  
Upon the sounding coffin, to complete  
The simple symbol of mortality.  
The void in earth, so easy closed was filled:  
They smoothed the outline of the tent of death,  
Planted a cutting of immortal green  
Close to the head and on the sunset side:  
And then the Master's bidding was obeyed.  
This is the burial of the Master-writ  
Of many instances of nobleness  
In men that live, the witnesses of truth,  
And men departed, who the witness bore,  
That in a time which some call barbarous,  
(Part of the span of our fair South's career),  
There were exemplars in the life assigned  
To server and to served, and precious traits  
Evolved from social life, as precious fruits  
Are borne of trees in every clime of nature.  
Sweet sleep the Master who fulfilled the trust  
Of mastery! Sweet sleep the slave who saw  
Even in bondage something more than self!  
The same dew falls for them; the "stars of earth,"  
The flowers, for them alike their sweet perfumes  
Blend with the brightness of the stars of heaven.  
And if the spheres shall give again sweet sounds,  
As in the chorus of Creation's Morn,  
To glorify its Evening, when the March  
Of all the ransomed slumberers begins,  
'Twill be the grand Processional, for Them  
To Enter In.

About the Author  
Columbus Drew  
(1820-1891)

Came to Jacksonville in 1848 and opened  
the eponymous Columbus Drew Stationery  
& Printing Company in 1855

November 7, 1875



# *Minorcan Immigrants Settle In Baker County*

*The Canova and Andreu/Andrew families were among many Minorcans and other Europeans who settled in Baker County during the 1800s. They were descendants of the largest group of immigrants to leave European soil. On March 31, 1768, eight ships of Minorcans, Greeks and Italians boarded at the Spanish Isle of Minorca to settle in a land they only knew by rumor and fantasy. Of the 1,403 on the three month journey, three babies were born and 150 died. The survivors landed on the Andrew Turnbull plantation in New Smyrna where they became work slaves to Turnbull and his cruel overseers. After nine years of rigorous toil and heartless treatment spent turning 10 acres of swampy, overgrown, tropical acres into a profitable Indigo Plantation, the surviving 400 were finally permitted by the governor of Florida to abandon Turnbull's brutality and walk the 75 miles to St. Augustine where they began life as a free people and would transform the culture of that small colonial outpost forever. Descendants of families such as the Andreu/Andrew, Canova and DiMaggio families from that historic first group of European immigrants emigrated to Baker County where they became a part of the business and social scene of a new frontier.*



*George Paul Canova murdered by an unknown assailant, Sanderson, FL (1844-1898)*



# THE CANOVA'S



*Thomas R. Canova was sent to Virginia during the Civil War as a telegraph operator and was the one who telegraphed "The Yanks are coming" and alerted the Confederates to prepare for the Battle of Olustee, the only significant battle fought in Florida during the Civil War*



*Dianna Greene Canova / daughter of Elisha Greene wife George Paul Canova. Mother of 13 children*



*Mother and Daughters L - R: Annie Canova Ward, Dianna Greene Canova, Adaline Canova Chace, & Katherine Canova Mann*



*Old Canova Home in Sanderson, Florida, located across railroad tracks on the northwest corner where present day post office stands. The horse is Prince, the same horse George Paul Canova was driving when assassinated June 5, 1898. Thaddeus Hill, is holding the horse. The Mann family later owned this home. Built by the Canova Family in 1880's and was later remodeled by Lillie Mann. Canova's returned for years and held reunions. New (1990's) Post Office was built in this location.*

## LOCAL CELEBRITIES



*The Canovas as they appeared on The Chase and Sanborn Hour in 1938 - from left: Judy, Zeke, and Annie. Judy's credits inc. 32 radio, television and films. In 1983 at age 69, Judy Canova died from cancer and her ashes were interred in the secluded Columbarium of Everlasting Light section, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Glendale, California. Her ashes are among those of her siblings Anne (1901-1994), and Zeke Canova (1898-1980). Judy has 2 stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Some of this information was found on Wikipedia"*



*A "Pioneer Son" sees the birth of a County,  
the forming of a Town, and  
a Civil War that would see his demise...*



Isaiah Barber (1829-1864) son of Moses Edward Barber d. CSA  
1850s cyanotype (glass plate) photo (prior to Tintype)



# DARBYVILLE ~ MCCLENNY

1830's

*This report has been compiled by LaViece Moore-Fraser Smallwood Moser from official county court house records, family records and living descendants of the Elisha Greene and George Canova families of Sanderson, interviews conducted by Ms. Smallwood with many Baker County citizens, particularly the late Thomas B. Fraser of Sanderson, Loyce Knabb Coleman, Wilma Cook Morris, and Will Gilbert of McClenny. Many of the dates, places and locations explored while compiling this report contradict one another, including official court house records and some media reporting. This record has been proofread for accuracy by Naomi Crews Roberson, Betty Taylor Sands and Anita Gilbert Gerson.*

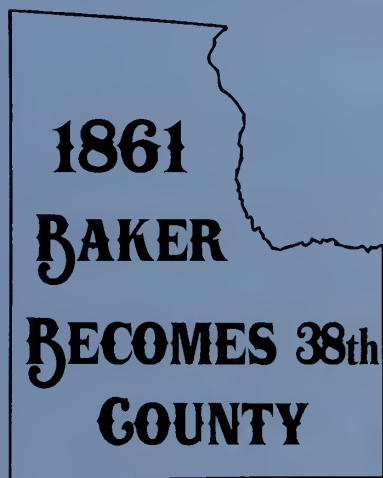
*It is hoped that this capsule report will help other researchers who may someday seek the challenge to discern a more complete and accurate version than what has been assembled here.*

As America was being settled, long before the advent of rutted roads or railroads, pioneers to the "new world" hacked their way up and down her lush coasts on make-shift primitive trails. Eventually many of them turned inward to settle on swamp infested lowlands using their ingenuity and agility to master the elements and uncultivated conditions. The post Civil War boom brought many settlers searching for land,

and occupational advantages. In the beginning, the sparsely settled Baker County area was shifted five times to other fledgling counties beginning with St. Johns in 1821. In 1822, it was included in Duval County. By 1828, Alachua County formed the Baker County area until 1832 when Columbia County formed her boundaries. In 1858, the area was formed into New River County, created out of Columbia and comprising the present counties of Baker, Bradford and Union. In 1859, the railroad opened an area several miles east of Olustee where much of the timber and land was virgin and settlers came in search of greener pastures. Milling companies sent in buyers to acquire the timber lands. The area was called Johnsville and was designated as the county seat. It remained so until 1861 when the area was permanently established by the Florida Legislature as the 38th county formed in the state and officially named Baker County in honor of James M. Baker, former state Judge of the Fourth Judiciary District. Baker

had once been a Florida senator to the Confederate States of America. Sanderson, a developing town 12 miles westward from McClenny, was designated as the county seat and the government was transferred from the temporary courthouse in Long Pond School House at Johnsville to a few miles south on the railroad, to Sanderson where the county's first court house was erected the same year. The new town was named in honor of a director, and later president, of the rail company, John P. Sanderson. He was a former resident of the area, representing his neighbors in various Columbia County public offices and was considered one of the prime influences through the media in gaining public support for the railroad.

As early as 1829, several wagon loads of mostly Georgia settlers had made their way into the Baker County area from Georgia. Among them were the Hogan, Barber, Elisha Greene and Driggers families. The Greene family settled on "Greene's Creek" south of Sanderson. Moses Barber made claims for much of the land surrounding the present day McClenny area and by 1830 had attracted several other families to settle near him. Barber's settlement, called Barber's Station or Plantation, was located near the present day golf course and Miltdale sections. It remained there for 45 years. The next parent town of McClenny came on the scene







*Also known as Darby-Savage Store corner of College & Hwy 90  
later bought by M.T. Howell*

when Colonel John Darby, an immigrant from Ireland, and his wife, Clara Mary Hemmingway, of Horry County, S.C., ambled into the fledgling Baker County area and instituted a saw-mill and turpentine distillery community on the eastern edge of the present day business district at Trailridge. The little settlements, some of which had dirt-floors, were primitive shanties with little or no conveniences. Even outdoor latrines were nonexistent for the time. Domestic and wild animals roamed freely throughout the area. Baths for the area folk were usually taken weekly in the St. Mary's River "wash-hole" located at the bridge between present day McClenny and Glen St. Mary.

By 1866, a sawmill community near the Barber Plantation was established by a Mr. Jackson from Georgia, and became known as the Jackson Community, in the vicinity of present day Blair Street. State Representative Samuel Neil Williams, Sr., a timber buying agent, built a two-story frame home about 1865, said to have been located just south of the railroad on the east bank of the Little St. Marys River. For awhile he was able to get his home designated a regular train stop as he was a stockholder in the railroad company. That area, known as Williamsburg, lost its crude postal service to the new little settlement of Darbyville, also referred to on some maps as Darby Village. When it was determined that the incline at Williamsburg was not favorable to locomotive stops and starts. The railroad tracks had been completed from Jacksonville to this area in 1859 and on to Alligator (Lake City) in 1860.

Colonel Darby established "Darby's Commissary" for the locals working mostly in the turpentine distillery operation. He served as postmaster in his large two-story frame store facing the railroad. General merchandise was sold on the ground floor and the second story was used for clothing. He developed a business association called Darby and Salvage. Darby's nephew, son of his brother James, worked for him in business interests in Fernandina and Starke. He soon became interested in state politics and served as a state senator in Leon County.

(Note: He eventually married Jeannie Brevard from one of Florida's most prominent political families. Their one and only child, Mary Call Darby, became the wife of Florida's Governor LeRoy Collins.)

In 1880, a large sprawling city block-sized hotel was built by Confederate Captain Carr B. McClenny who had settled in the area after coming from Virginia to cut timber for the post-war boom in the north. In time, he became friends with Col. John Darby who ran a local turpentine distillery and general store with mail facilities. He fell in love with Darby's daughter, Ada. The two wed at the Darby's Starke, Florida, home in 1874. Capt. McClenny hoped to entice the affluent northern people seeking to invest in Florida land to purchase his property and also to settle in the area. Rather wealthy for the times, he and some other townspeople ambitiously platted out a new town near Darbyville. The Darby family was slowly disappearing from the scene, having taken up permanent residence in Starke. Thus, after four parent communities, in an unbroken chain for 54 years, the "new" platted community was, in 1883, officially called McClenny by the





*This is the view on College Street from McClenny Ave that shows the Episcopal Girls School about six blocks away looking south. There is a hog walking freely down the right side.*

Florida Improvement and Colonization Society. Although dubbed Darbyville in the early 1870's, the 1880 railway itinerary of the Florida Atlantic and Gulf Central Railroad used the name "Macclenny" (note spelling change due to railroad mistake). The postmaster continued to use the name "Darbyville" until 1882. Later, the name "Macclenny" became more popular as city officials began using MacClenny on street signs and records. Many old timers still spell it McClenny and others spell it Macclenny. For consistency, throughout this book, the author chooses to use the original spelling from Captain Carr McClenny, unless the name is used as quoted material. For more detailed information, see section Titled: "Charles Darby Family."

## **THE COUNTY SEAT MOVES...**

According to official county records, as early as 1885, an effort was being made to move the county seat from Sanderson to McClenny. On Dec. 7th of that year, a petition of a number of citizens was presented



*Turn of the Century Darbyville/McClenny: 5th Street at the Railroad Crossing looking North.*



to the commissioners for an election for the removal of the county seat. A committee of three was appointed to examine the petition. The petition was granted in the Dec. 14, 1885 meeting and minutes read "that Tuesday, the 26th day of January be appointed the day holding said election." Election inspectors were appointed in this meeting. On Feb. 22, 1886, the tabulation of votes were:

	<i>For Removal</i>	<i>Against Removal</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sanderson Dist. No. 1	10	134	152
Olustee Dist. No. 2	36	26	62
McClenny Dist., No. 3	138	00	138
Johnsville Dist. No. 4	20	48	68
Glen St. Mary Dist. No. 5	30	12	42
Total Votes	243	220	463

In the report of these official records, it was noted in the meeting of Feb. 1, 1886 "that this Board has no Jurisdiction to act in this matter and the election so held in Conformity to said order for said Election has no legal effect and is therefore illegal, void and non effect." The tally of the votes was as listed above. The record goes on to state, "Resolve that this Board employ Counsel to defend said cause before Supreme Court and that the Chairman of this Board be empowered to select and employ said Counsel." *(Note: the Total Votes are not added correctly "For Removal" and the "Total" votes. The Author left the official record as recorded.)*

It has been said by old-time county residents that in 1886, the county courthouse in Sanderson (presumably located where the original home of Tommy Fraser is located, later owned by Watson Goodwin) burned, destroying all of the county's official records. And, they say, Mr. McClenny, and other citizens, immediately began a campaign to have the county seat moved from Sanderson to McClenny even offering free land to Sanderson citizens who would also move. As of this writing, I found no mention in county records, or newspapers, reporting a fire. In my 40 years of experience as a researcher, I have found that oft times the

## THE STREETS OF OLD DARBYVILLE



*left to right is Dr. E.F. Brown, Carr McClenny, Edward McClenny and unknown on horse, John McClenny (young boy) other boy fighting is unknown, Harold Turner & W.J. Thompson*



burning of a courthouse is a myth. Records in our present day courthouse go back much farther than has been said. So, we know that the records did not burn. And, if you will note in the official records I have included, the Baker County Board of Commissioners sent the sheriff to bring to McClenny all of the public records. Much more is written in the County Commission minutes concerning this move of power from Sanderson to McClenny. An official record recorded below has been gleaned in part as it was written. Official County Commission records report that at a special Commission meeting on August 23, 1886, the Board of County Commissioners ordered that an election take place on Thursday, September 30, 1886, to determine if the present County seat should be moved from Sanderson. The examination of the returns revealed 220 votes for moving the county seat to McClenny versus 207 votes for keeping the county seat in Sanderson (a difference of 23 votes). The election was not an easy battle but the change did emerge under the democratic system. Official records state that on February 7, 1887, Sheriff J. M. VanbuKink was ordered to move all the Baker County public property from Sanderson to McClenny. Notes from the County Commission Minutes Book A, page 217 dated Monday, Feb., 7, 1887, interestingly stated, "Moved and carried that the following resolution be placed upon the Minutes 'To Wit' where as an election held on the 30th day of September A.D. 1886 for County site of Baker County Florida the town of McClenny in said county received a majority of all the votes cast at said election and thereby became said county site and where as a new courthouse has been recently erected at said county site by Hon. C.B. McClenny which said courthouse is now ready for occupancy. It is therefore ordered that J.H. Vanbukink, sheriff of said county, shall proceed at once to move all the public property of said county from Sanderson late county site to McClenny now the county site and place said property in said new Courthouse employing therefore suitable help at the expense of said county, ordered further that hereafter all the public business required by law to be transacted at the county site shall be transacted at McClenny, and, all officers required by law to hold their office at the county site shall remove at once their office to the Courthouse in said town of McClenny, Ayes, Rowe-Rice-Berry-Nays, Jennings-Thompson. Moved and seconded, court adjourned to meet next Monday at McClenny." Page 230 shows that the first meeting was held, September 5, 1887, in the new Courthouse in McClenny, Florida. The event was



*College Street looking north - McClenny, Florida 1909*



celebrated with fireworks and shotgun blasts. In Sanderson, it was reported, there was almost armed rebellion in the streets as the citizens saw their major income source depart. County Clerk records reveal that on September 9, 1887, Carr B. and Ada McClenny granted property to the Baker County Commissioners for the purpose of building a county courthouse. The land transaction was recorded in CRB 'D'; pages 73, 74, & 75. The frame structure was completed in 1888. Current Property Appraiser, Gary Barber, evaluated the official public record deeded by the McClennys and determined the location was on the northeast corner Block 58 on McIver Street bordered by Fifth St. which is in the same block of the present-day brick courthouse built in 1908. Old timers say they remember that the building, belonging to the Dawkins Lodge, stood directly behind the current location of the Macclenny Woman's Club which is Block 44. The Baker County Standard reported that after the 1908 courthouse was built, the old courthouse was first leased to Tate Powell, Sr., then later sold to Dawkins Lodge. Records indicate there was another courthouse used after the one located behind the Woman's Club.

In any case, McClenny's economy and growth were both enhanced during the mid-1880s. An 1885 Florida guidebook had described Darbyville/McClenny as a former saw mill settlement having a population of 200 with three churches and land worth from \$5 to \$25 an acre.



*Block long McClenny Hotel (140 feet x 20 feet) built by Carr and Ada Darby McClenny, circa 1883. This hotel was quaranteened and used as a hospital during 1888 Yellow Fever epidemic. The two doctors in town, Dr. T.E. James and Dr. F. W. Williams and the mayor Mr. Merritt, all stricken with an unknown illness called Washington, DC to ask that they send a doctor to McClenny to diagnose it. So the Marine Corp. Hospital in Washington, DC sent a physician by the name of Dr. Posey who did infact diagnose "Yellow Fever". After the disease was over seven weeks later, Mr. McClenny was left with his hotel in shambles. He attempted to sue the Federal Government initially for \$2,000 for loss of income but by the time the court ruled against him in 1907, he was asking for \$10,000 for the loss of his entire business . He didn't win the lawsuit because he could not prove that the Government actually ordered anyone to seize his hotel to quarentine and treat the patients. It was merely a decision made by the townspeople at the advise of the doctor from Washington. It was, however, a total loss afterward and rendered useless. They removed the expensive heavy wallpaper and burned it along with the furniture to rid themselves of the virus.*

## YELLOW FEVER

By the 1880's there was a cotton gin, newspaper, school (St. James Episcopal Academy and boarding school for girls), churches, public school, blacksmith shop, barber shop, millinery shop, commissary, crude railroad depot (1858) and various nice homes constructed by northerners. This growth was short-lived because in 1888 a tragedy occurred when Yellow Fever struck and wiped out much of the population. Darbyville/McClenny, Cedar Creek, Margaretta, Sanderson and Olustee was wiped out. Clara Barton gave ten nurses passing through on the train going to Jacksonville to stop off at McClenny to care for the sick and dying. The train refused to stop in McClenny, but agreed to "slow down" a mile outside of town so they could jump. The nurses, seven women, and three men jumped from the slow moving train with their luggage in pouring down

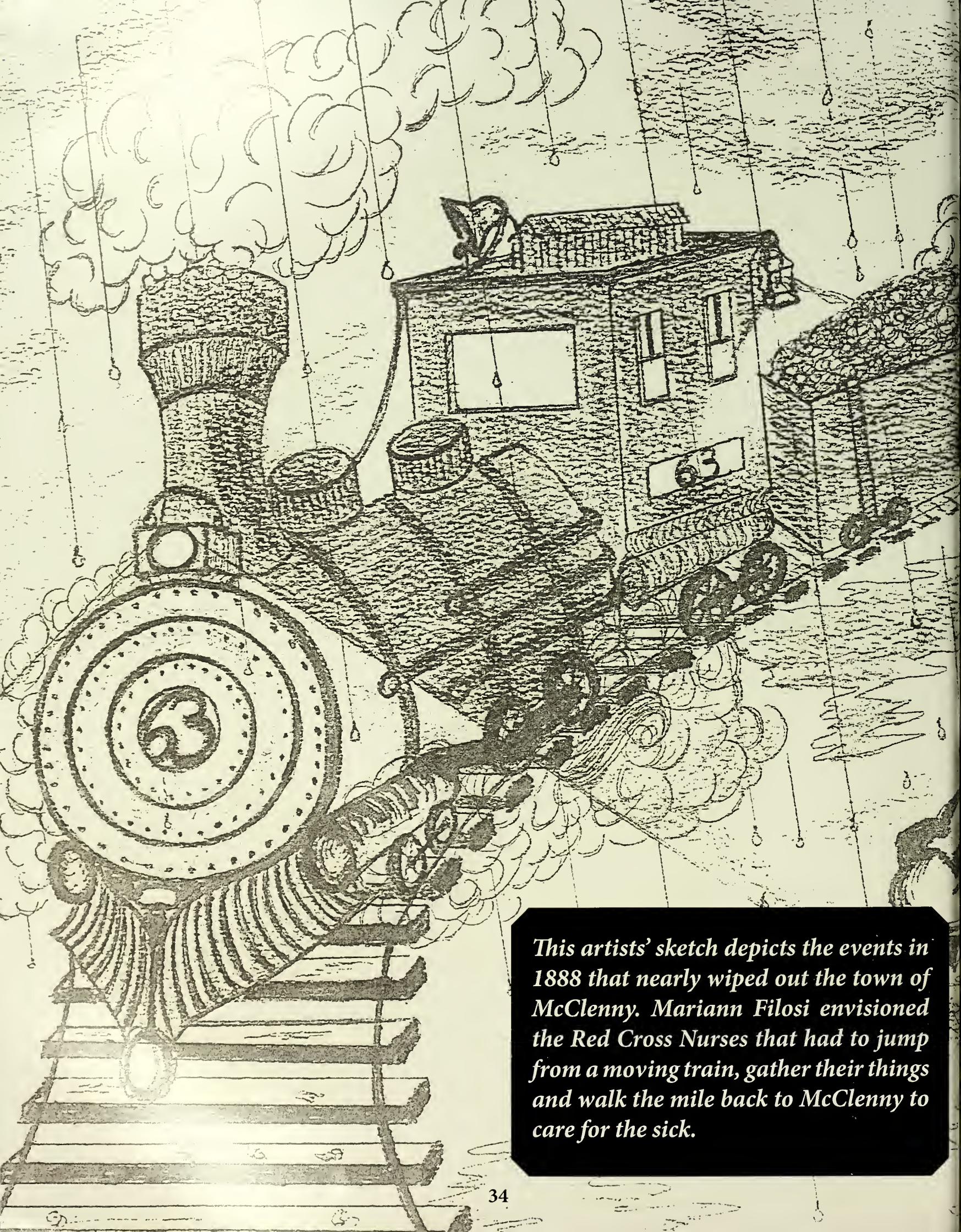


*...has the people of McClenny never forgot the faithful hands that toiled, and the generous hearts that gave to their community. They are worthy of place in the history of any epidemic. No country, race, nor creed ever knew such a body of devoted men. Four Americans, one German, one French, one Irish three Africans, and Portuguese and probably others, but all from New Orleans of grand old Howard stock, from Memphis and Mississippi to every point on the banks of the Mississippi to Tampa Bay: and hereafter we will honor them as the H.H.H. and M.D.*

*Clara Barton* founder and President of the American Red Cross

rain and walked back to McClenny. According to a letter from a fever survivor written in 1958 and published in The Baker County Press, he survived the fever but lost both of his parents. He related how the nurses set up a make shift hospital in the McClenny Hotel owned by Carr and Ada McClenny. Both town doctors were ill with the fever and unable to assist. "I was too ill to grieve and even realize my parents had died," he wrote. "I could hear the movement of horse drawn wagons outside my window, on their way to the cemetery day after day," he wrote. Carr McClenny lost his beloved nephew John Willie McClenny and father, Hinch Gilliam McClenny, to the fateful fever. Although the cemetery at that time was located back of the Methodist Church between north Fourth and Fifth Streets, their bodies were moved later to Woodlawn Cemetery with other McClenny family members to make room for the church's expansion. As the new century dawned, the site for developing was mostly open marsh land with structures of frame design in a simple rectangular plan exhibiting squared false fronts. There were a few log structures scattered about. Some northern settlers had constructed fine homes in the sector. Mr. McClenny's hotel was the social hub of the community, and local news articles of that era report there were balls, concerts, and theatrical performances either in the hotel's commodious dining room or on its wide porches. Overnight rates for the hotel guests were from \$2 to \$2.50. On November 4, 1907, the Board of County Commissioners, comprised of J. A. Taylor, J. E. Sessions, J. E. Burnsed, S.E. Dobson and J. W. Mann discussed the necessity of a new courthouse with a vault being built for the safe keeping of county records. It was decided to do so on December 9, 1907. The minutes of this Board meeting state that at this time it was resolved that five mill tax be levied for the period of five years for the sole purpose of erecting the court house and that said court house shall not exceed that of \$40,000. On January 6, 1908, Mr. E.C. Horsford, architect for the proposed courthouse, presented plans to the Board. Bids were advertised in *The Baker County Standard*. Of the two bids for plans received, the Board ordered that the plans and specifications by E.C. Horsford be modified. Again bids for the construction were published in *The Baker County Standard*. Of the three offers received, the bid of the Mutual Construction Company housed in the Tyler Building in Louisville, Kentucky, was accepted as the lowest bid of \$19,985 submitted with a certified check for \$2,000. The local newspaper reported (from official records) that the area selected for the new courthouse would be "commencing at the northeast corner of block 58, then running south one hundred feet; thence running west two hundred feet, thence running north thirty feet, thence running east one hundred and seven feet; thence running north seventy feet, thence running east ninety three feet to the point of beginning in the town of McClenny as per map thereof." The land was owned by Mrs. Jane Herndon, a widow, and her heirs who received "in consideration of the sum of one hundred and forty dollars." On the 20th day of July 1907, Ada and C.B. McClenny filled out an official deed with the county to rectify a mistake that was made in the description of a deed that was made on the 8th day of September 1887, and which was filed and recorded in Baker County Records Book 'D' pages 73-76. (The mistake being the street name McClenny Avenue was used and it should have read McIver Ave.) The correction was made in Deed Book 'D' page 800. Both the Herndon and McClenny properties are described as being on lot 58, at the corner of McIver and Fifth Streets. On September 4, 1908, J.R. Lindsey and his wife Lola deeded property to the county for One hundred and twenty five dollars on the northwest corner of Lot 58. (This piece of property ran east to the corner of Sixth Street and in later years was owned by the late Wilma Cook Morris.)



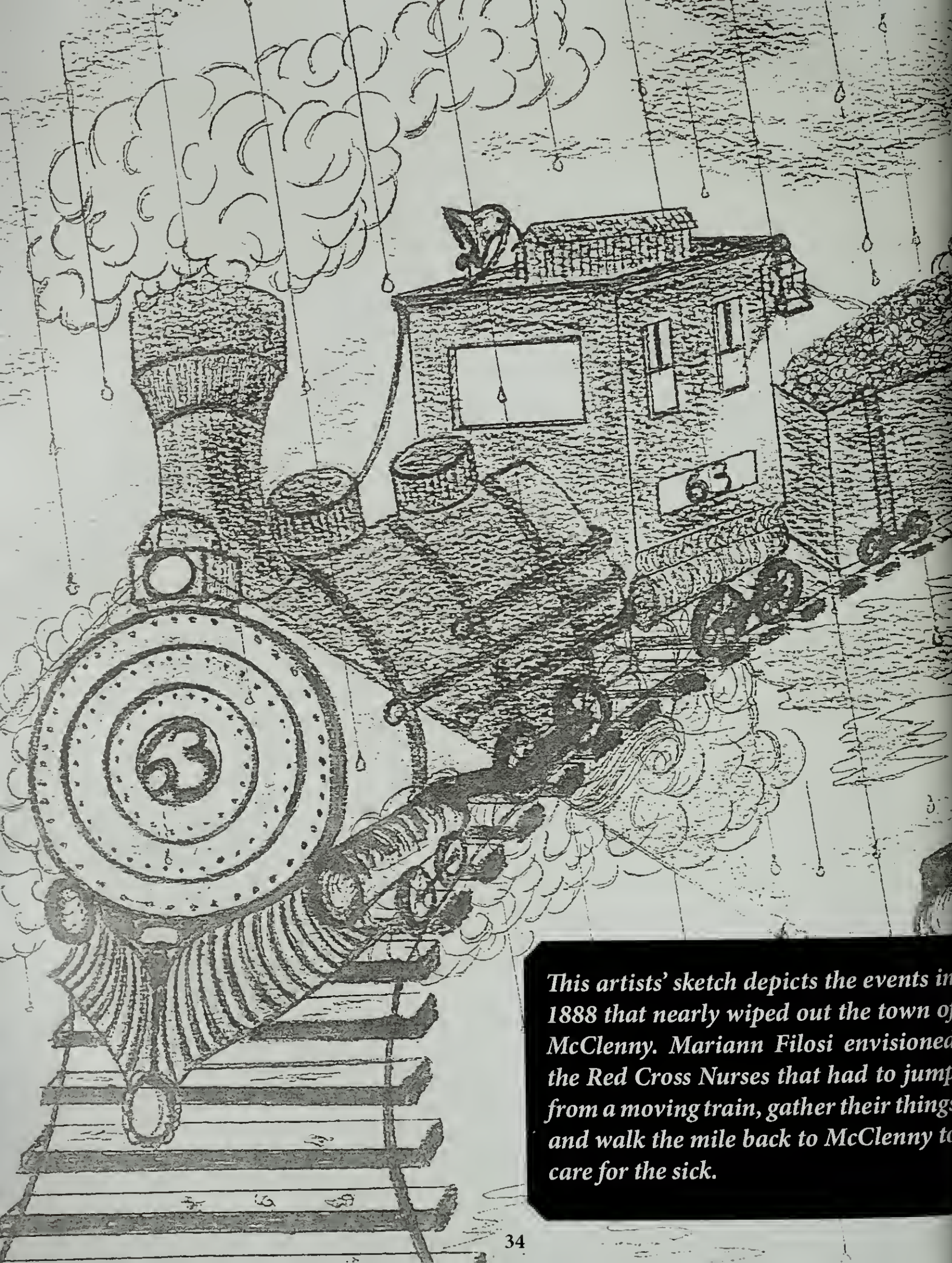


*This artists' sketch depicts the events in 1888 that nearly wiped out the town of McClenny. Mariann Filosi envisioned the Red Cross Nurses that had to jump from a moving train, gather their things and walk the mile back to McClenny to care for the sick.*

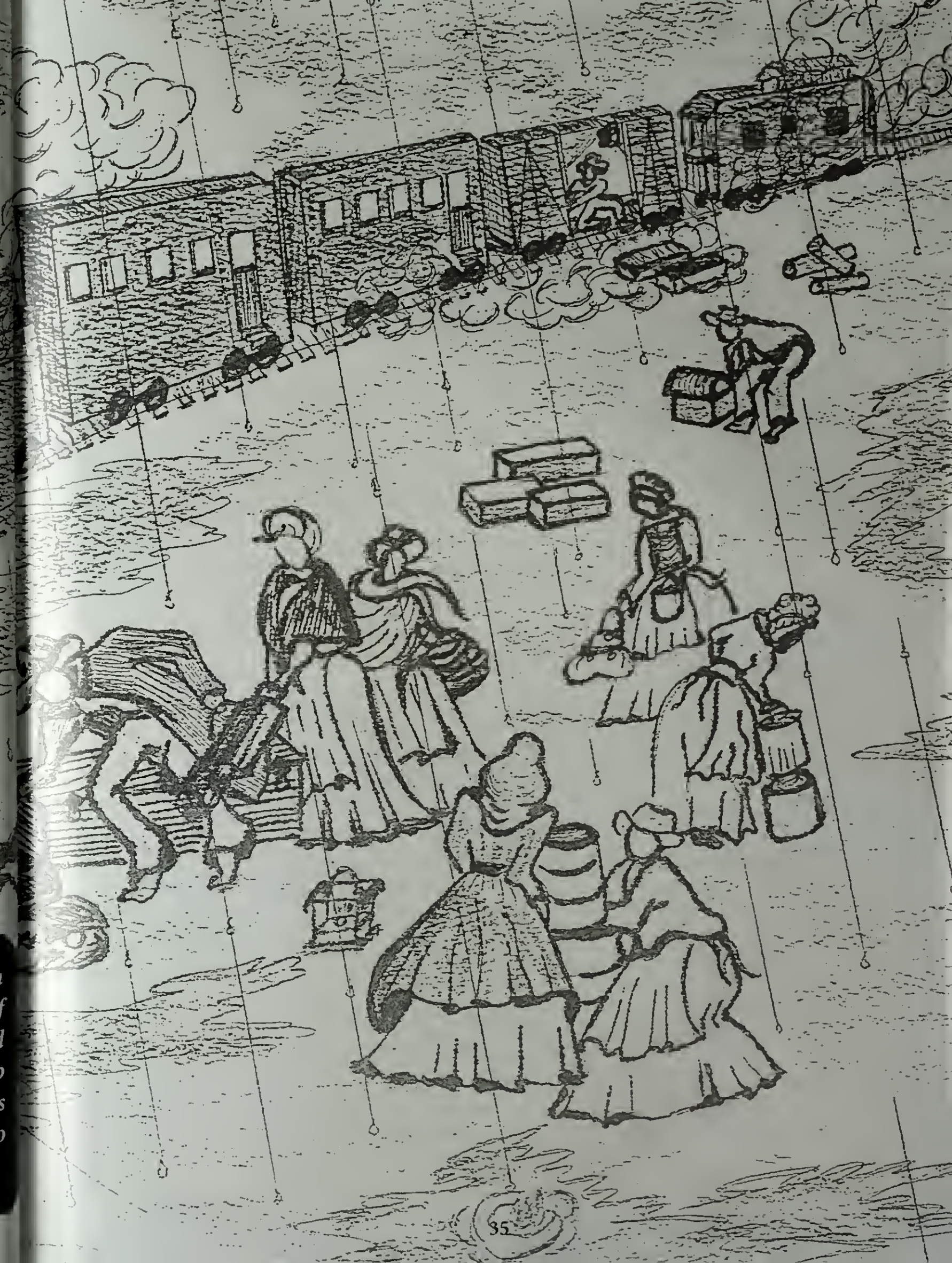








*This artists' sketch depicts the events in 1888 that nearly wiped out the town of McClenny. Mariann Filosi envisioned the Red Cross Nurses that had to jump from a moving train, gather their things and walk the mile back to McClenny to care for the sick.*









A news article in *The Baker County Standard* stated that the land for the new courthouse would be filled in with sand brought in by mule and wagon. The building itself would be constructed with brick purchased from a brick yard in neighboring Jacksonville.

## THE NEW COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1908

While mules and wagons hauled in fill-sand and dirt to prepare for Baker County's newest courthouse, impressive plans on the drawing board revealed a novel architectural appearance much different from the county's other structures. The people watched with pride as the picturesque, ornate, design took shape. It was the first of its kind in the state. Unique features included pattern-rolled, galvanized sheet metal eaves, colored brick mortar, angled corner joints, four tower-like octagonal corner rooms radiating from the central section. There were cast iron mantels and pressed tin ceilings. The county was but forty-seven years old when the courthouse was erected in 1908, and McClenny had been the county seat only a quarter of a century. The Board received and took possession of the new courthouse on December 28, 1908. By the turn of the 21st century, this building would be acclaimed as the oldest remaining official building in McClenny.

On January 4, 1909, official records show that three bids were received on the lease of the former Old Court House building. Tate Powell Sr.'s bid was \$16.00 a month for a period of five years; that of E. Long was \$300 per year with an option to purchase at \$650; that of J.B. McCormick was \$15 per month for a period of four years. The Board subsequently agreed to draw up a lease with Tate Powell, Sr., the publisher of *The Baker County Standard*.

Over two years later the Clerk was authorized by the board to run a notice in the *Baker County Standard* that they would sell to the highest cash bidder between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12 o'clock noon the first Monday in May 1911, that being the legal sale day for the ol' courthouse building and lot in Block 44 town of McClenny beginning 93 feet, then South 12 feet to McIver Avenue, then East on the North side of McIver Avenue 214 feet to place of beginning. On May 2, 1911, the Board sold the building to Dawkins Lodge #60. (Lot 44 is the location of today's Maclenny Woman's Club.)

In 1917, the new courthouse was made even more ornate by adorning its crown with an elaborate decorative clock topped by a gleaming tower bell. The massive clock was installed by Clarence Milton, father of former Baker County School Superintendent, Harold Milton. The steeple included a 600 pound tower bell that could be heard tolling a couple of miles away. Local craftsman, Art Rowe was engaged for \$5 a month and was a faithful caretaker for the monumental timepiece until he moved away in 1941. The clock never stopped running

during those years, and it kept perfect time except for a few occasions when it was said flying squirrels climbed in the tower and dropped pecan shells in the gears. The weekly awkward climb into the

*Lynn Barnes - Russie Thrift Garage  
Charlie Driggers by Truck, Russie Thrift & Lynn Barnes by his car  
Located on U.S. 90  
between 5th & 6th Street*





clock tower for the almost quarter of a century was not missed by Rowe but about a half dozen times, and when he was absent he always had someone to take his place. Art's brother, John, took the job for a few years after his brother left town.

At that time in the chronology of our county's history, it is reasonable to doubt if anyone would have predicted how significant the building would become to the county, but today, as the county's oldest public building, it is the object of phenomenon for local historians and genealogists who seek to collect and report stories of its past. What for instance, has been uttered from its portals by the long-ago political hopefuls, governors and gubernatorial candidates who have been known to speak from its steps. What took place during infamous murder trials heard in its majestic upstairs courtroom. Was it perhaps your grandpa, or mine, or maybe both of them, who were said to have walked through its threshold either to see the local sheriff or do business with other county officials? More often than not, visitors were laden with home grown vegetables or fresh farm eggs for their favorite official's family. Elections were held within its plastered walls, and some citizens have reported spending all night and into the morning in its halls as votes were tallied by the light of a kerosene lamp while those counting the votes, and marking with number two pencils, yelled "Tally." In those days it was more usual than not to see townsmen, with pistols hanging from their hip pockets, hovering around the premises making sure every vote was counted correctly and affairs were kept in an orderly fashion. A former county sheriff, Shannon Green, was murdered in its doorway, and this legend lives on.

As the county flourished the need for a larger, more modern, courthouse emerged. In the Feb 24, 1939, edition of *The Baker*



This is Baker  
County's  
third  
courthouse,  
now The  
Emily Taber  
Public  
Library  
on McIver  
Avenue



*County Press* was this headline, "Roosevelt Approves WPA Project For A New Court House". The article said that "bonds in the amount of \$50,000 have been voted by the freeholders for the construction of the courthouse." In April, the paper reported that Senator J.D. Dugger of McClenny offered a measure to the Senate which would permit the use of \$20,000 in surplus gasoline taxes by the Baker Board of County Commissioners for the matching of the Federal sums offered toward the cost of constructing the proposed office building for the Baker County executives. The Baker County Press announced in the August 9th, 1940, edition that the cornerstone was laid for the new courthouse on Tuesday by the Masons. In part the article stated, "With Smith L. Turner of Williston, most worshipful grandmaster of Masons in Florida, as the presiding officer, members of the order met Tuesday afternoon to lay the cornerstone for Baker County's new courthouse. The ceremony, open to the public, was largely attended by residents of McClenny and surrounding territory and by county, State and Federal officials. The new courthouse of brick and stone is being built with Federal co-operation through the WPA." The article went on to name all the Masons throughout Florida who attended. County Commissioners at that time were C.M. Barber, CHMN, J.S. Croft, Bryant Davis, E.D. Harvey, George Raulerson and J.A. Burnett, Clerk. The Bond Trustees were B.J. Padgett, CHMN, T.M. Dorman and Aubrey M. Green. Due to World War II, building was halted on the Revival style building that was designed by Roy A. Benjamin, of Jacksonville. Local citizen, Allen Milton, remembers he and neighborhood boys played in the skeletal structure as youngsters and the excitement created among them when going down into the dark dungeon (basement). After the war, building resumed and on Wednesday, December 20, 1944, Governor Spessard L. Holland dedicated the new \$100,000 Baker County Courthouse at 11 O'clock in the morning. The day began at 6 a.m. with a wild game breakfast in the Hotel Annie (located on McClenny Avenue in the present day Baker County Standard and Chamber of Commerce buildings area ) and at 7 a.m. a dove shoot. Introduction of the distinguished guests was done by Senator Edwin Fraser. At 12 Noon there was a cocktail party at the McClenny Club Home, and at 1 p.m. guests were treated to a wild game dinner in the Hotel Annie. Mayor John T. Alsop (of Jacksonville) was the speaker. By the first of the year in 1945, officials moved into one of the most dignified courthouse creations in the state. The sprawling new building was located on the north side of Hwy 90, on the east end of the city. The first couple to marry in the new county courthouse was Marie and David Waters of Jacksonville, whose son Donald owns and operates Pier 6 Seafood Restaurant in present day McClenny. They were married by Judge Brown who had to step over drop cloths and paint buckets to find room to perform the ceremony. The 1945 census showed a total of 6,326 inhabitants in Baker County. Although the County Commissioners were urged at the time to transfer the old courthouse clock works to the new building it was decided not to do so. They did agree to keep the clock running where it was. However, the clock was forgotten by everyone except a few sentimental beings such as Art Rowe. Reflecting once on that silent span in the courthouse clock's history, he recalled that the hands didn't move for five or six years not because of mechanical but human failure. The clock, he said, was still in perfect condition. It just needed some dependable person to look after it. To the rescue came a "Jack of all Trades," Dr. John Holt, a sheer genius of a man, who for a while, before leaving town, donated his time to keep the grand ol' timepiece in running order. After Dr. Holt, a local jeweler, Johnny Wales, was hired to wind the clock. He soon moved away and in 1956 John Hurst replaced him. A now ailing Art Rowe climbed the tower ladder one last time to demonstrate to John the oiling and winding procedure that was imperative to do regularly every seven days. Art once related how much strength it took to crank two huge weights, a total of a ton and a half, to a height of 25 feet. In 1956, at age 67, Art could still wind the cranks, the equivalent of hoisting 100 to 150 pounds. When Hurst died a few years later, the clock fell idle again and towns people, who depended upon its performance to regulate their daily work schedule and mealtime hours, felt the immense loss. In time, the ol' courthouse itself fell prey to old age, but braced up in 1948 to house, for many years, the Baker County Health Department and the Boy Scouts of America. Unforeseen at the time, the regal ol' edifice was being preserved for a future pivotal use. With full restoration in the 1990s, the once more beautiful building is now used for the local public library, named in honor of Emily F. Taber.





*Emily F. Hughes Tabor*

born in Jacksonville on December 28, 1911  
died November 20, 2011

In 1961, Emily F. Taber, a local woman and a lover of books, began to fulfill a long time dream to begin a public library for the county's citizens. Before her marriage to George Taber, owner of the Glen St. Mary Nursery, she worked in the Jacksonville Public Libraries. As she drove her children to Jacksonville on Saturdays to use the reference materials for their school work, she became determined that other children and her grandchildren would have the opportunity to enjoy the convenience of a community library. She believed that a public library was a necessary and vital cultural contribution to society, so she turned her energies and enthusiasm toward this ambition. Members and friends of the St. James Episcopal Church donated a room to house her project. They also gave her a \$25 budget, and agreed to volunteer their services to assist in her work. From her own library collection, and collections of citizens such as Mrs. Willie Mae (Will) Gilbert and Mrs. Elizabeth (Walter) Dopson, Ms. Taber began her mission in June 1961 with 600 books. She persistently sought ways to accumulate additional books. She petitioned County Commissioners, lobbied Tallahassee lawmakers, assisted in fund raisers, and spent countless hours volunteering her steady and reliable services as she watched her dream expand. When the little room became overcrowded, the women of the church invited the County Commissioners for lunch. The Commissioners agreed there

was a need for a county library. Soon the repository was incorporated into the Baker Free Public Library and moved in 1962 to the Hodges Building next to Williams Appliances on College Street. It was given an operating budget of \$100 per month plus donations from Friends of the Library. Mrs. Ruth Cone became the official librarian. She worked two hours a day, and received \$1 an hour for her services until her death in 1972. The townspeople began to realize the library was answering a need in the county, so they pitched in to help make it a success along with generous donations from The Lion's Club, McClenny Women's Club, Junior Woman's Club and Garden Club. The City of McClenny began financial support as well as the County and City of Glen St. Mary. In 1970, the upstairs of the palatial ol' courthouse building became available, and the county commission was asked by Ms. Taber if the ever growing archives could have the space for their library. At the time, the Health Department was still housed on the ground floor. Cumbersome voting booths had been stored in the front hallway, so, the library team enlisted the support of a cherry picker to assist them in lifting the library's 10,000 plus book collection from the ground into a second floor window. There, the library functioned, growing in leaps and bounds. In 1975 the local Health Department outgrew the aging building. Although the structure was in great need of repair with a leaking roof, a fragile air conditioning system, old wiring and inadequate lighting, the group of determined library enthusiasts quickly spread out over the entire building. In 1982, Ms. Taber was recognized for her contributions when she became a recipient of the Service To Mankind Award from the local Sertoma Club where it was officially announced that arrangements had been made to rename the Baker County Free Public Library as the Emily Taber Public Library.

Even though the building was now listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, the library staff and volunteers, along with the town's citizens, watched helplessly as the brick's luster faded, paint peeled and cracked both inside and out the once grand and glorious old building. The once faithful and stalwart clock had fallen to silence and decay, and little was being done to restore its past stability and grandeur. That is, until along came a few faithful enthusiasts with support of the Baker County Board of County Commissioners who owns the structure. In the year 2006, the building and the famous courthouse clock were completely restored to their original luster and stand as historic ensigns to an era passed. Emily Hughes Taber, 99, of Glen St. Mary died November 20, 2011, at Acosta Rua North Florida Community Hospice after a brief illness, just short of her 100th birthday.



# THE DARBY'S OF DARBYVILLE

Who were they? When did they come? How long did they stay? Where did they go? When did Darbyville become McClenny and when did McClenny become known as Macclenny?

For as long as there has been a written word, there have been historical records. Sometimes the name of a town draws attention and curiosity because there is usually a meaning or a purpose for the name. Even in Biblical times, towns and areas had meanings to their names. So, in our area, we were Darbyville, then McClenny, and now known as Macclenny. For the curious, this has been compiled.

The Darby family of Darbyville immigrated to the United States from Ireland either in late 1849 or in the early 1850s depending on which of their ancestors tells you the story. More than likely, the story of the Darby's of Darbyville goes something like this, taken from correspondence in 1923-1924 between two family members and given to Hamilton D. Darby of Bridge Hampton, Long Island, New York. He states that the two family sources, a brother and a sister, did not always agree. That accounts for the mystery of their arrival into America and on to our area and other parts of our nation.

In Hamilton's account, the Darbys were said to have come from England, then settled in Downpatrick, County Down, Ireland (near Belfast) for a few generations. The immigrant, John Darby and his wife Clara Morgan were the parents of these known children: James, John, and Eliza. A son Arthur is said to have died in Ireland. Records of their immigration have not been located, although one ship's passenger list closely match the ages and names to a degree. For example, arriving in the port of N.Y 1846-1851, was James Darby age 45, a laborer, his wife Catherine, age 40, children Bridget 17, James 16, Catherine 14, John 13, Eliza 9, Mary 7, and Thomas 5.

Hamilton's line was the couple's son James who settled in Wilmington, New Hanover County, N.C.

It was the couple's son John who gave the name of Darbyville to our area. The first official record found of John was his appearance on the 1860 census in the Village of Conwayboro, Horry County, S.C. with his wife, Clara Mary Hemmingway, age 20, also known as Clarkey, and two children, two year old Ada (1858) and one year old Frances, called Fannie (1859). On the 1850 census of Horry County, Clara was living with her parents as a 12 year old child. She met and married John Darby around 1856. John Darby, born in Ireland February 25, 1831, appeared on the 1860 census as a 33 year old merchant.

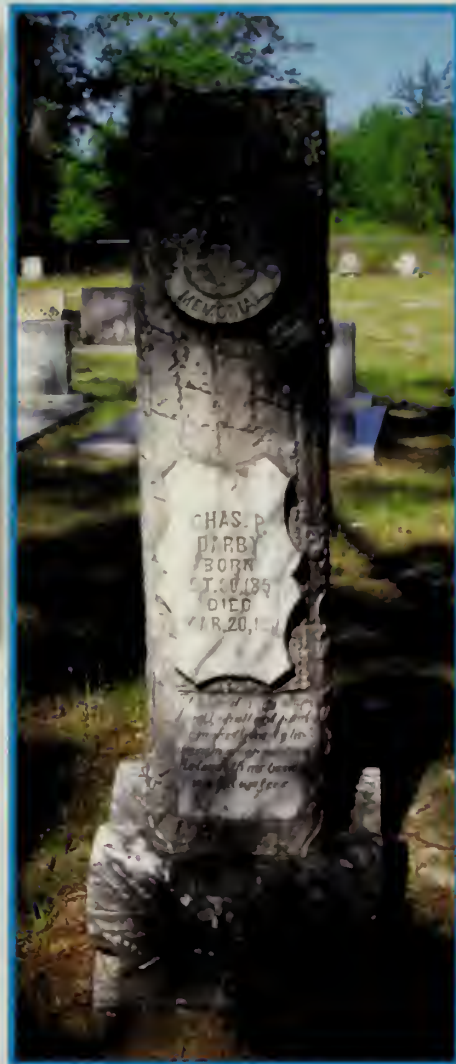
The next record we have verifying when John and his family moved to our area was the birth of twin sons on Trailridge in December of 1861. One twin died. Darby established a lumber yard, dealt in turpentine and land deals. He built a two story general store that sold a variety of things to the early settlers. The 12 children of the couple are: Ada (1858) who married Carr McClenny, Frances (1859) married Dr. J.L. Gaskins, John Henry a twin (1861), unnamed twin died (1861), Arthur Morgan (1866) married Ida Lee Wolfe, Alice (1874) married a Dr. Rich, (dentist), Charles, a twin never married, (infant twin died). James married Josephine Doane, Clara married Frank Lane and (2) Henry C. Richard.

John Darby was oft times called Colonel John Darby, but inquiries into military records in each state and the National Archives as well as the Sons of the Confederacy, turned up no records to verify that John Darby was a participant in the Civil War. This search was conducted by reference librarians and several professional genealogists hired to find the records, if they exist. In the publication, Biographical Rosters of Florida's Confederate and Union Soldiers, 1861-1865, compiled by David W. Hartman and David J. Coles in 1995, they list a John Darby who enrolled at Lake City in 1863 in Milton's Artillery (more specifically, roll Captain H.F. Abels Light Artillery). There are no military enlistment records, and the information about the enrollment could not be verified by the authors of the publication. Although records were found for several John Darbys who fought in the Civil War, none matched the birth year, age or wife of the John Darby of Darbyville. Found under the title "Milton Artillery" there was a fight at Darby's Hill under command of a man named Bates. This could have been Trailridge where John Darby lived and his twin sons were born. A South



# CHARLES DARBY FAMILY

*Son-in-law of Frontier Pioneer Elisha Greene*



Charles P. Darby (October 30, 1859 - March 20, 1911) & Rosanna Lenora Greene (February 22, 1865 - August 30, 1898) married on October 6, 1880. "Rosa" was the daughter of pioneer Elisha Greene and they lived in Sanderson, Florida. Their children were Charles H, Minnie E. Harry F., Annie, Carrie, Mabel, James & Thomas. The gravestone of Charles Darby (Olustee Cemetery) states "Woodmen of the World" which was founded in 1890, is a fraternal benefit

society based in Omaha, Nebraska, United States, that operates a large privately held insurance company for its members. The history of this organization includes the erection of numerous distinctive tombstones depicting tree stumps across the country before 1930, a program to donate American flags, and broadcast interests that were to own the first television station where Johnny Carson worked.

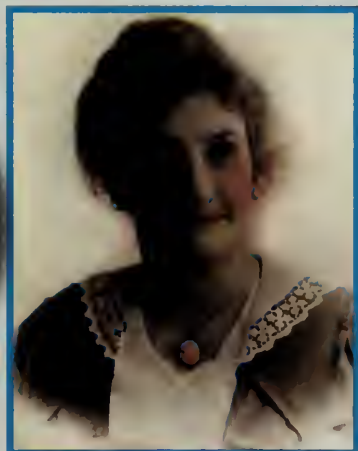
Son James Darby



Tombstone's of Charles above and Lenora below



Annie in 1905



Annie Darby, daughter of Charles and Rosa Darby, sister to Charlie Darby who married Gertrude



Gertrude (wife of Charlie Darby), Charles & Harold Darby





*The grave of Colonel John Darby Old section of the Crosby Cemetery Starke Florida*

Carolina archivist, searching for the military records for John Darby, suggested that the use of the title of Colonel could stem from a pre-war or post-war militia position. Men could serve for two years and in addition the governor could appoint a dozen or so aide-to-camps who had the rank of Colonel. The system allowed a number of individuals to gain the title of Colonel. Individuals would retain the title even after they gave up the position for which it was bestowed. The destruction of Columbia, S.C., by the Union Army in 1865 destroyed all the antebellum militia records for the state, so it was not possible to check for

such service. Archivists, as well as a professional researcher in Florida Military records at the Florida State Archives, North Carolina and Virginia, searched in vain for any proof of Darby's military records verifying military service, but found none. It is hoped that someone will at some future date find the actual military records of John Darby, if, in fact, he did serve. It should be noted that the name Colonel was also a popular given name, even in Ireland. This area had two known men with the given name of Colonel: Colonel Combs of Sanderson and Colonel Cobb of Olustee.

Although John Darby was a wealthy man with extensive holdings throughout the entire state of Florida, not too much is known of him personally. We do know he reared a large family in Darbyville. Maps of the area called the small settlement Village of Darby, Darby Village, Darbyville and just Darby. It is a fact that Darby owned land and operations in the area before moving here. At the same time of Darby's arrival in the area, a 20 year old man by the name of Carr Bowers McClenny moved into the district and established a business. He soon left to participate in the war. He was captured two years later and spent the remainder of the time as a federal prisoner in Fort Delaware. Upon his discharge after the war, he returned to Darbyville with the rank of Sergeant, but with the honorary title of Captain. By the early 1870s, Darby began to move his business interests to Starke, in neighboring Bradford County. Captain Carr McClenny must have had his eye on the Darby's daughter, Ada, because when she was 16, and he was 33, the couple married at her parent's home in Starke.

As Carr McClenny's wealth increased in Darbyville, so did his prestige and influence in the community. He acquired associates who assisted him in laying out a plat for a



*Arthur Morgan Darby, 1866-1938 son of John and Ada Darby, married Ida Mae Wolfe (1870 - 1942) (pictured at 16 years old) on December 22, 1886 in 1st Baptist Church in Starke, Florida. She was an accomplished musician. First organist in St. Marks Episcopal Church, Buried Crosby Lake Cemetery in Starke, Florida - notice how long her hair was, she could sit on it.*



new town called McClenny. He was successful in having the county seat moved from Sanderson to McClenny, and he generously gave land and financial aid to the local government. He assisted good causes. He and his wife were instrumental in developing the area's social events when they built the block size Hotel McClenny. With Darby completely gone from the area, the McClenny family had a hand in developing a new city concept and worked tirelessly for the area's positive growth and development. The McClennys were good people and they did more than anyone else in their era of time that I've researched to bring prosperity and development to the area. It stands to reason the name McClenny would develop into the town's name. The change in spelling has several opinions submitted over the years, but the most likely was the one where Carr McClenny had to concede to the railroad and or post office who refused to accept the capitol letter C in the name and reduced it to Macclenny. If ever I had the power and influence it would be returned and changed to the original McClenny spelling to pay honor and respect to the family who did so much for our area.

One of John Darby's associates in business was his nephew, Thomas Arthur, son of his brother James who had settled in North Carolina. Thomas, born at Goldsboro, Hanover County, N.C. on November 2, 1854, moved to Florida when a young man to be associated with his "Uncle" John Darby in business in Fernandina. He eventually developed his own wealth as a large operator in turpentine and lumber from Alachua County to Cedar Key where he did one of the largest lumber businesses in the state. He lost all he owned in one night in a hurricane. He moved to Putnam County and re-entered the lumber business and, for a time, was engaged in the railroad business as president of the Atlantic and Western Railroad. He disposed of his interests in railroads and turned his exclusive attention to horticulture. He was owner of one of the largest orange groves in Florida located on the St. Johns River, but lost it in the freeze of '94. He was zealous in state politics beginning an interest in 1876. He was a delegate from every county in which he resided to every state and congressional convention, to the national democratic convention held in Indianapolis where he was on the platform committee. In 1894, he was elected senator from Putnam County and proved a valuable member. He was an influential writer and author on financial subjects. After his move to Tallahassee, he met and married Miss Jeannie Brevard, a sister of Dr. E.M. Brevard, who was from one of Florida's most political and influential families since our Territorial days. The couple had one child, a daughter, Mary Call Darby, who married Florida's Governor LeRoy Collins.

Thomas Darby lived some of the time in New York City where he had business interests. His wife's health was not favorable to the climate there so she remained with their child in Tallahassee. Thomas was in the process of selling his business enterprises that was to secure his finances and make it possible for him to stay permanently in Tallahassee. The day he and his business associate signed the last legal paper he was found dead in his hotel room from an apparently heart attack. He was sixty years old. His wife and daughter buried him in his native Wilmington, N.C.

Space in this sketch does not allow mention of small notes of interest found in news articles and other records of the pioneering Darby family, most of whom are buried in Crosby Lake Cemetery in Starke. However, John Darby's character traits of success and political interests follow his descendants. Groups of his posterity now visit Heritage Park to learn more about their celebrated forebearer's image. While the name of Darbyville may have fallen into obscurity, so has the correct spelling of the McClenny family's name. But as long as there are descendants, they will come, and keep the flicker of both lights glowing on their ancestral past.

*First reunion of Darby-McClenny families in 150 years. Pictured left, Virginia Darby of Starke, Florida and right Faye McClenny Miller of Jacksonville, Florida, 2004*





# ADA DARBY-JONES FAMILY



*Elise Cecil Jones (born 1910) and Arthur Darby Jones (born 1916) sister and brother born to DeWitt Cecil Jones and Ada Viola Darby who owned the successful DeWitt C. Jones Funeral Homes in Gainesville, Starke & Keystone Heights. They also owned Livingston Jones (a hardware and farm implement store) and a Coca-Cola Franchise. Elise never married but Arthur married twice.*



# MORE DARBY PHOTOGRAPHS

*Louise Peek, Ada Darby (Jones),  
unknown, Mary Soloman (Long) &  
Lois Peek (Perryman)*



*Standing l-r Floney  
Phillips, Annie Darby,  
Lizzie Griffin, Mrs.  
Sternberg, unidentified  
cousin of Mrs. Sternberg  
& Ethel Sternberg. Up  
top on fence is Thomas  
J. Griffin, Florence  
Canova and Thelma  
Griffin.*

*Unidentified clan of Darby's  
shown below*





# THE MCCLENNY FAMILY....

## *in Baker County, Florida*

*It is not everyday someone has a city named after them. Carr Bowers McClenny did.*

*And this is his story.*

Carr McClenny was a man of distinct character. He was precise, determined and definite. He came from a long line of progenitors who shared the same traits. He personally signed his name Carr Bowers McClenny on his military pension application, but most references to him in news articles, contracts, legal papers, etc., use the spelling of Bower. A long line of descendants, named for their admired progenitor, also use the Bower spelling.

He was born 9 April 1839, in Norfolk, South Hampton County, Virginia, to Hinch Gilliam and Elsie (also spelled Alcey) McClenny. Not much is known of his early life. He gave information on his military pension application that he arrived in Baker County in 1859 at the age of 20 and had continuously resided in the State of Florida since 1860. Records show that he was a Sergeant, Company K, 2nd Florida Cavalry, C.S.A. enlisting at Hearts (sp Hart) Road, Nassau County, Florida, May 16, 1862. His Captain was Robert Harrison. He was captured February 9, 1864,

near Starke in Bradford County, Florida. He was released as a prisoner at Fort Delaware, June 10, 1865, upon taking the oath of allegiance. His Captain was J.N. Jones. At the time of his discharge, his Regimental Commander was Col. Carraway Smith. Noted on his pension application, he spent most of his service career as a prisoner of war and was released from Fort Delaware at the close of the war. Witnesses for his pension application in 1907, were James D. Chalker and M.D. Barber. R.L. Rowe, who



*The original quilt was given to the Beaches Area Historical Society by a McClenny family member who had no authority to do so. Despite more than 100 direct-line McClenny family members signing a petition to the above statement, the Society refused to return the famous quilt to the rightful owners, the family of Kate McClenny, who designed and quilted it in the 1930s. The original quilt has the great seal of our nation and state on it, but has not been displayed as promised it would be by the BAHS as was the agreement when given to them (unauthorized) by Roman Edward McClenny. Many family members have traveled hundreds of miles requesting to see the quilt at the BAHS but have been refused. As the original descendants of Kate McClenny grew older, they had a desire for children and grandchildren to see the original quilt of their grandmother, so they have placed a replica painted from their memory and photographs to proudly hang in the Heritage Park Village in McClenny.*



enlisted with him and served in the same outfit and James D. Chalker signed as character witnesses as to having known him since 1862.

Carr McClenny's appellation of Captain was an honorary title of respect. It is assumed when he arrived in Florida in 1859, he was either near, or in, the Village of Darby, or Darbyville. Upon his return to the area from military service, he farmed, dabbled in turpentine, and real estate. Hard working and ambitious, he became a successful businessman. His town competitor, Colonel John Darby, a native of Ireland, had been living in the area since 1860, although legal records show that he had varied business interests and homes in Baker, Duval, Nassau and Bradford counties, much earlier having formed a business partnership with Oliver Salvage. Twin sons were born to John and his wife, Clara Hemmingway, on Trailridge on December 8, 1861, but prior to that they were residents of Horry County S.C. The couple, according to the 1860 census, also had a two year old daughter, Ada (1858), and one year old, Frances or Fannie (1859), both children born in S.C. before arriving in the area. The Darby & Savage Company dealt in sawmills, lumber, land, and turpentine. Darby's General Store served area residents with every thing from horse feed to clothing. It stands to reason Carr McClenny kept a keen eye focused on the Darby's daughter Ada as she grew up through the years because on Oct 14, 1874, the 35 year old bachelor married the 16 year old beauty at the home of her parents in Starke, where they had moved their mercantile business a few years before.

The fledgling county, established as Baker in 1861, was growing, and the McClenny couple grew with it. Their 11 children were: Frank (1875), Clara Belle (1877), Elsie (1882), Ruth (1884), Arthur B (1886), Bessie D. (1889), Louis C. (1890), Rosa (1892), Fannie (1895), Herbert (1897) and Josephine "Jodie" (1904). By 1880, the quality of homes being built were vastly improved, although none enjoyed the luxury of indoor plumbing or electric lights as that was to come much later. However, newspapers such as the "The Star" and later "The Florida Standard" were brought to the area educating the people as to what was happening around the nation. People from the north arrived by train to escape the harsh northern winters as the railroad had been extended as far as Olustee in 1859. In 1880, Carr and Ada built a beautiful block size hotel that became the social hub of the area. His brother John arrived with his wife Georgia Ann and children from Virginia to be the hotel's bookkeeper. The children were: Roxana, Ulala, John Willie, Julia, Laura Annie and Emma Mae (twins), Carr Bowers, Ada, James Edgar, Minnie Viola (first to be born in McClenny), Daisy and George Trelan 'Trey' (twins) born 15 Sept 1882. His widowed father, Hinch Gillian McClenny, joined the family too. Carr and Ada generously donated, or made easily available, land for government businesses and for churches such as the First Methodist Church where their family cemetery was located. Carr enticed residents in the county's seat of Sanderson to move to Darbyville by giving land or making easy financing available. He served the area as State Senator and became so influential that in 1883, he and a group of supporters successfully platted out a community officially called McClenny by the Florida Improvement and Colonization Society (even though the census of 1880 still classified the location as "Village of Darbyville"). He was persuasive enough to eventually have the county seat moved to the new community of "McClenny" speeding up the phasing out of the name Darbyville on maps and official documents.

Then, in 1888, disaster struck the prospering community, and the zeal of Carr McClenny waned. Yellow Fever raged across northern Florida, trains refused to stop in the small community and would only "slow up" about a mile east and west of town if passengers were willing to "jump". The two town doctors were ill with the fever. Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross, gave permission if some Red Cross nurses "wanted to chance" the effects of "ministering to" and caring for the stricken in Baker County. Six female and three male nurses agreed to the challenge and jumped from the slow moving train, with their valises, in the blowing rain, in mid-February's harsh weather, to find their way through the darkness to the suffering



*Carr McClenny Grave  
Evergreen Cemetery, Alachua County*



inhabits of McClenny. They set up a hospital in the McClenny Hotel to care for the sick and dying. Carr McClenny's beloved father, Hinch Gillian, and nephew, John Willie, were among those who died. Grief stricken, the McClenny couple moved from the area after the turn of the 20th century, settling in Cadillac, near Gainesville, where they held business interests, as well. He returned to McClenny often to tend to business and visit his McClenny attorney and counselor at law, Max M. Brown.

Sixty plus years old now, Carr McClenny did not slow down his ambitions or objectives in his new location. He was a successful sawmill operator, farmer, and served Alachua County well for the next 21 years, many of them as Chairman of the Alachua County Board of Commissioners. When he died there in 1922 from injuries sustained when he fell from a moving wagon two years before, he was hailed by the Gainesville Newspaper as a valuable pioneer citizen, well known and well beloved, a man whose word was as good as his bond in all business affairs. He was said to be true to what he believed to be right, and he stood up for his beliefs to the end and would have died for the cause had it been necessary. In his home, he was a model husband and father. In his community, he was a model citizen. In his country and state he was a man who would be a pattern for any man to follow. He named his friends by his almost limitless acquaintances in the county. Truly, it may be written that "a good man has gone, and his place can not be filled by any other". He was survived by his wife Ada Darby McClenny, his three sons and seven daughters: L.C. McClenny, Los Angeles, Arthur B. and Carr B. Jr. of Cadillac. Daughters: Mrs. B.D. Heirs (Clara Belle) and A.B. Collins (Rosa) of Gainesville, O.B. Powell (Bessie), and Hamilton Dobbins (Ruth) of Jacksonville, E.K. Butler (Fannie) and Elsie Heirs (Elsie) of Alachua and Miss Josie McClenny of Cadillac. The funeral services were held at the Methodist Church at McClenny with the Rev. I.C. Jenkins assisted by the regular church pastor. Although his death certificate said he was buried in McClenny, he was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery in Alachua County.

On February 22, 1923, just short of six weeks after the death of her husband, 65 year old Ada and her youngest daughter, 19 year old Josephine (Josie), were killed, and Ada's son Arthur injured, as a result of a crash between a local Seaboard Air Line passenger train and the automobile in which the three were riding. According to eye witnesses, the automobile was approaching the crossing at the railroad station at Alachua when a box car in which cotton was being loaded blocked the view of the tracks they were crossing with their car. Josie lived about an hour, her mother died instantly. Their funeral services were held at the home of Ada's daughter and son-in-law, Judge and Mrs. B.H. Hiers of Gainesville. Ironically, the couple who left Baker County to escape the tragic memories of the Yellow Fever catastrophe, died tragically in their new home.



## **MCCLENNY FAMILY 2004**

*Front Row: Bee McClenny (Sitting),  
2nd Row: Eleanor Ray Kelly Flowers,  
Samuel Clement Catherwood,  
Christopher Gary Miller, 3rd Row:  
Reva McClenny, Andrea Fay Flowers  
Adams, Laura Fay McClenny Miller,  
4th Row: John Carr McClenny, Mary  
Catherine McClenny Scotten, Dee  
Wade Hoisten, John K. Adams, Sr.,  
Gilbert Shannon Miller, Jr.  
& Deidre Gray Milton*



# GENEALOGY OF CARR B. MCCLENNY

*Taken from Southhampton County Virginia Records*

- 1 Father: Hinch Gilliam McClenny, Jr. Md. Alcey Darden. Two children: John Darden born Sept 11, 1836 (died Feb 7, 1886 in McClenny, Fl.) and Carr Bowers McClenny, Sr. born April 9, 1839 (Died Dec 29, 1922).
- 2 Grandfather: Hinch Gilliam McClenny, Sr.. Born April 17, 1759 in Va., and died about 1813 in Southhampton, Va. Wife was named Rhoda. His son, Hinch Gilliam, Jr. father of Carr B. McClenny, was willed 134 acres of land and plantation. Rhoda received whole of estate. They had five children.
- 3 Great Grandfather: James M. McClenny. Born about 1718 in Virginia. Died August 18, 1802 in Va.. Married Mary E. Gilliam. She was the daughter of Hinch Gilliam and Amey Briggs of Sussex County, Va., thus the name of Hinch Gilliam passed down through the family.
- 4 Great Great Grandfather: William E. McClenny Born about 1678 in England, died about 1750 in Va. His name is recorded in some Virginia records as MacClanee, MacLenney, and MackClenny. He was granted a land patent for 450 acres in the Upper Parish of Nansemond County, Va., for the transportation of nine persons. Four sons believed to be: James, John, William and Thomas.



*John McClenny*

*There are several prospects as to why the change of spelling from McClenny, Florida, to Macclenny, Florida, happened to the name of this family. It is said, with reason, the railroad did not want to capitalize letters. For what ever reason, I'd like to go down in history as saying, it should be changed and returned to the original spelling, regardless of the cost or reason.*

## **Children Of (1839-1922) Carr Bowers Mcclenny, Sr. and Ada Darby (1856-1923)**

*All children were born in Darbyville/McClenny*

1. Frank Edward. Born Sept. 20 1875. Died Feb. 21 1976. Buried Evergreen Cemetery, Alachua County, Fl.
2. Clara Belle. Born August 8, 1877. Died June 25, 1962 Jacksonville.
3. Elsie A. Born Feb. 18, 1882. Died July 21, 1928. Married Raiford Alexander Hiers. Elsie and her sister Clara married brothers. Elsie was buried at the Elzy Chapel, Union County, Fl.
4. Ruth born about 1884 McClenny, Fl.
5. Arthur B. Born March 15, 1886 (driving the car when his mother Ada and sister Josie were killed).
6. Bessie D. Born ca 1889 Florida.
7. Louie C. Born ca 1890. Married Minnie Hinman in 1912. Died June 22, 1914.
8. Carr Bowers, Jr. 1890 (twins). Married Mary Dampier.
9. Rosa (1892). Married A.B. Collins.
10. Fannie (1895). Married E.K. Butler.
11. Herbert (1897).
12. Josephine 'Josie' (1904). Killed in accident with her mother in 1923.

The last members of the McClenny family left the area about 1923-25 seeking the fresh salt breezes of Jacksonville Beach for health reasons, but they never forgot their roots were in Baker County. Some of the original family members, from the Darbyville days, were exhumed from the McClenny family cemetery back of the First Methodist Church in McClenny and moved to Woodlawn Cemetery south of town. Other family members, including Kate McClenny, asked to be returned "home" at her death, and she, too, now rests in McClenny. A painting of the McClenny family's heritage Quilt of Democracy is on display in Heritage Park Village.

*Since the establishment of Heritage Park museums, the McClenny family has come from far and wide to visit and reminisce together for the first time in more than a century. McClenny family records are voluminous and*

*available for research in the Park. Information has been gleaned from many sources: Tony McClenny's McClenny family website, military, Baker County and Alachua Courthouse records, federal census schedules, Alachua County estate records of Carr and Ada Darby McClenny, land records, probate, Southhampton County, Va., archival records, business and family correspondence, personal records and personal interviews with the McClenny family. There is no doubt that the McClenny family left a profound impact on the community their ancestor helped to establish, as well as, wherever they have taken up roots. Their lives and legacy are recorded on the internet site of Tony McClenny who, like his forebearers, have been an energetic and relentless force for good to society and mankind.*





*In the mid 1800s, Carr B McClenny constructed a chapel and dormitory for the St. James Episcopal Academy for girls that was located at the end of College Street on South Blvd. The school closed after the Yellow Fever epidemic that took the life of the School Master and founder Rev. Charles Steven Snowden (1846-1888) born in Charleston, S.C. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery south of McClenny. Note: As reported by some, the house was never used as a hospital during the 1888 Yellow Fever Epidemic. The hospital and stricken citizens were quarantined and confined to the McClenny Hotel by the stricken town Mayor during the fever where seven female nurses and two male nurses under the direction of Clara Barton worked to save the citizen's lives.*

## THE POYTHRESS HOUSE

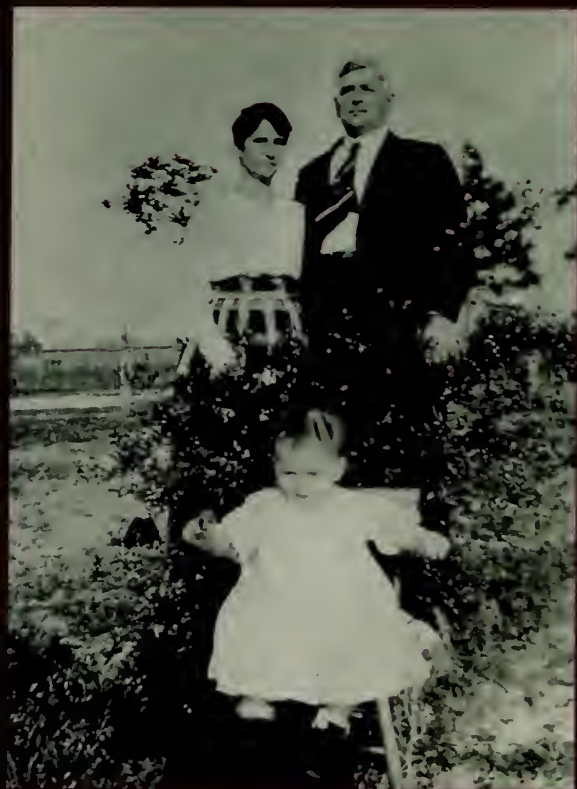
In December 1926, Charles William Poythress arrived in Baker County from Alabama to take employment with the Griffing Nursery. Poythress' wife Minnie (1886-1969) was the only child of David and Helen Mitchell of Alabama. She majored in art and was an accomplished artist. Many of her paintings arrived with them. Minnie had first married Vernon Tutt in Alabama who died six days before their daughter Helen Vernon Tutt was born. Minnie and her little daughter lived on the family plantation with her mother until she married Charles Poythress in 1921. Their three daughters were Sarah, Luta, and Erin. Mr. Poythress died in 1930 and Minnie and her four children moved into what became known as the Poythress house located on the southeast corner of South Blvd East and SR 228 (5th St.) It was located next to the new brick high school erected in 1921 after the St. James Episcopal Academy was torn down. Minnie used the house to help support herself and her daughters by extensive remodeling and converting the beautiful home into a boarding house mainly for teachers. Over the years many teachers courted and married while living there. A few of these include: Mrs. Fay Mathews (Harold) Milton, Mrs. Beatrice (Lonnie) Dugger and Jo Nell Segree. During the Depression, Minnie sold hot dogs, drinks, candy, gum, and sandwiches, etc, to the school children because at that time there was no school cafeteria. The beautiful home was decorated with her many pieces of art. The home was torn down following Minnie's death in 1969.



*Minnie Poythress*



# MCIVER AVENUE



*McIver family John Lanier and Elizabeth Floyd McIver and Baby*



*Elizabeth Floyd McIver, wife of John, Sr. with Emma on right, center is granddaughter Marie & her baby Floyd*



One of the most popular streets in McClenny, where the public library and historical old jail are located, is believed to be named for frontier pioneer John Lanier McIver. He was an early resident of Darbyville and close friend to Carr and Ada McClenny. He was born Oct. 1841, in Gadsden Co., Fl. After serving in the Confederate Army, being wounded five times during the campaigns and held prisoner by Sherman's troops when captured just outside of Atlanta, Ga., he married Elizabeth Delphia Floyd on Oct 23, 1866. Their children were: Emma, Alice Viola (Ola), Lillian, Thomas T., John Lanier, Jr., Charles E., and Floyd William McIver. The McIver family arrived in Baker County the early 1870s where records show he served as Justice of the Peace performing marriages, editor of the newspaper, and a prosperous businessman. The six foot tall McIver with dark hair and eyes and light complexion was a large land owner and Superintendant of postal deliveries in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a well known citizen with a long and honorable career. He died of heart failure at his home on Edgewood Avenue in the 62nd year of his life. (There is also a McIver street in Jacksonville named in his honor).

By: Margaret Louise Drody (Mrs. Kenneth Reed Thompson)

*Photo to the left is John Lanier McIver, Jr, Myrtle Ellis, & Charles E. McIver*





*St. James Episcopal  
Academy  
(late 1800s)  
end of College Street*

*Bird's-eye view  
from Belfry of  
Old Episcopal  
Academy 1920*



*Bird's-eye view  
from Pine-top,  
Glen St. Mary*





*In the 1920s, Leo Dykes used hand made forms for making the concrete blocks to construct this building located on the northeast corner of Fourth and Main Streets. Known as the Leo Dykes building, rooms and apartments were for rent upstairs and the bottom portion for a grocery store. Leo's wife, Ada Bell Rhoden, gave birth to a son, Johnny, in their upstairs apartment in 1932.*



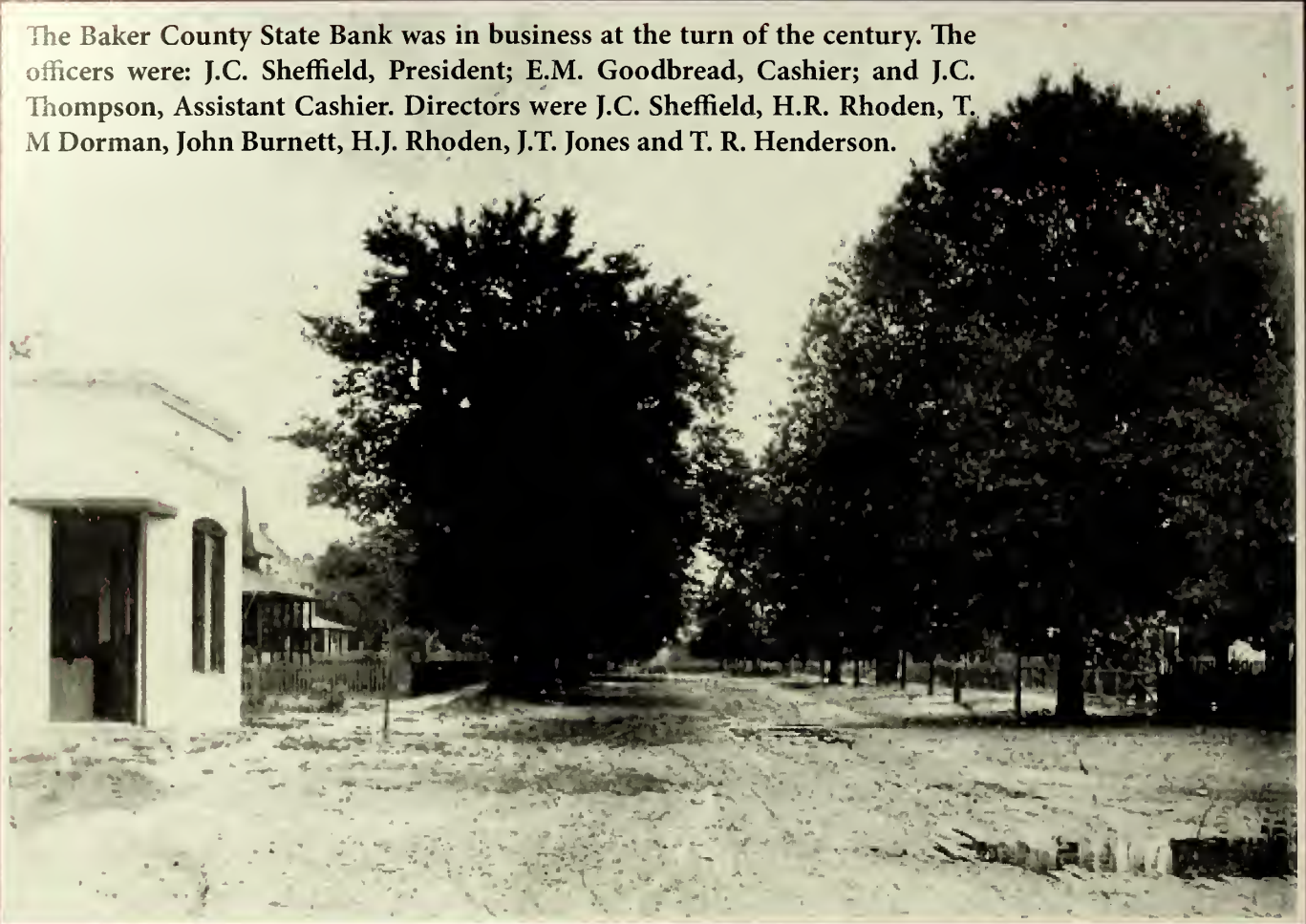
*1924 Neva and Vesta Turner at the "new bridge" from McClenny to Glen St. Mary*



The Baker County State Bank was in business at the turn of the century. The officers were: J.C. Sheffield, President; E.M. Goodbread, Cashier; and J.C. Thompson, Assistant Cashier. Directors were J.C. Sheffield, H.R. Rhoden, T. M Dorman, John Burnett, H.J. Rhoden, J.T. Jones and T. R. Henderson.

*Fifth Street  
looking  
North -  
McClenny,  
Florida*

*Year 1910*



*Old Train Depot in McClenny - 1910, includes Effie Wolfe. Thelma McLeod Hayes (1905-1989) arrived in McClenny at the age of 21 in 1926, to become Station Agent for the Seaboard Airline Railroad and retired 37 years later.*





*Mae Powers and son. Married to Sydney Powers, owner of Powers Drug on corner of McClenny Ave and SR 228. The Powers house was across the street from the Sundry Store and Mae had a yard full of flowers year round.*



*Sydney Powers in front of the drug store he owned with his wife Mae*



*Baker County State Bank located at NW Corner of SR 228 (5th St.) and McClenny Ave. William Barber left and Pat Goodbread on right*



# 1937 FIRE

*Block on  
Main Street between  
4th & 5th Streets,  
before fire in 1937  
including Powers  
Drug and Hotel  
Annie*



*Block on  
Main Street  
between 4th  
& 5th Streets,  
burned down in  
1937 destroying  
the entire block  
including Powers  
Drug and Hotel  
Annie*



*Reconstructed  
Powers Drug  
Store after the  
fire of 1937*



# MURDER IN MCCLENNY



*Dr. Edward Crockett was most beloved by the Baker County citizens and was more so than not paid for his services with eggs, chickens, or vegetables.*

## *Doctor Edward Wray Crockett, Sr. (1895-1938)*



*Dr. Crockett, Will Barber, and Jamie Milton  
Dr. Crockett was murdered 1938, by his third wife Ella.*

*The funeral was held in the  
First Baptist Church in McClenny.  
It was the largest ever held in the county at that time.*

*You can read the entire story of Dr. Crockett as told  
by his son Ed Wray, Jr. "Junior" on the internet or in  
paperback.*

*Once Upon A Lifetime Vol No. 5  
In Baker County, Florida*

*By LaViece Moore-Fraser Smallwood  
Copyright 1995*

*Crockett Sundry Store in the photo to the left*



## THREE GENERATIONS OF POSTMASTERS

Charles Turner, born 1828 in N.Y., moved to Florida with his wife, Martha Fraker, in 1869, in hopes of better health in warmer weather. He was 44 years old. He settled in Sanderson on 160 acres of land among 500 peach trees, 55 apple trees, and a good crop of pecan, orange, and banana trees. He raised all types of vegetables, hogs, cattle, and everything for resale. He wrote in a diary he kept beginning in 1867, "Any head of a family can take up 160 acres of land and live upon it five years and then get a government title to it for about twenty dollars. Lands are worth here (Baker County) from 50 cents to five dollars per acre. My place cost me \$800." The Turners had six children: Walter, Irene, Edgar, Charley. Two other children died—a boy named Arthur and a girl Serena. Sadly when the big freeze and hurricane of 1872 destroyed all his crops, Charles' diary revealed that, "We had to live on Indian meal, bread, pork and fruit." He died that same year. He was buried in what was a family cemetery in Margaretta at Mt. Sion Church near Sanderson. The old cemetery grew up with weeds and was finally obliterated. Martha Turner (Mott) and other members of the Turner family are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery south of McClenny. At the time of his death, Charles was postmaster at Sanderson. His oldest son, Walter Monroe Turner, served as postmaster in McClenny for 18 years. He married Lillian Elizabeth Sessions. He was in the sawmill business and built a large eight-room home, doing much of the work by lantern light after work. Later, he added four additional rooms and the home stood for many years. He donated the lumber to build the First Methodist Church in McClenny and built a church on the back of his property for the black people in the community. He was known as a Good Samaritan through the area.

His widowed sister-in-law, Ina Williams, and her three children were given a home and later Walter financed her in business. He also took in the wife and child of the family physician, Dr. Curtis, when the physician died. He was active in the Republican Party. His and Lillian's son, Ernest Vasco Turner, Sr., married Gertrude Garrett and served the county as postmaster for many years as did his father and grandfather before him.. The Turner family legacy still lives on and some made prominent names for themselves like Lillian Turner Bullard's son, Fred, who owned the celebrated Jacksonville Bulls Football team and his own golf course in Queens Harbor. The family treasured the daily diary of Charles Turner, who wrote extensively, until his untimely death, about his family and the times in which he lived. They treasure the legacy he left with his passionate comments about family, politics, stocks, rise and of the price of goods, and news accounts of other areas of the U.S., as well. You can read the entire diary at the Baker County High School Library in McClenny or in Vol. 3 of:

*Once Upon A Lifetime in  
Baker County, Florida  
by LaVie Smallwood Moser*

*See Turner Family photographs in the  
"Family Album" section*



*Postmaster Walter  
Turner on the porch  
of the Old McClenny  
Post Office*



*Postmaster  
Walter  
Turner's  
wife,  
Lillian  
Elizabeth  
Sessions*



*Ira Walker Grocery,  
(former Leo Dykes  
building), corner of  
College and U.S. 90.  
The sycamore tree was  
one of many planted up  
and down the streets of  
Darbyville by town's first  
namesake Col. Charles  
Darbey. Two sycamore  
trees still stand today on  
McIver Avenue.*



# EARLY 1940'S ELECTION

*Tallying of votes in  
Paul's Rexal Drug  
Store in Downtown  
McClenny, for Walter  
Fraser, Candidate for  
Governor of Florida,  
owner of Fountain  
of Youth in St.  
Augustine, Florida.*



## DUMMY STRAW BALLOT

— Conducted By —

Baker Theatre — Baker County Press

Vote for ONE in each group:

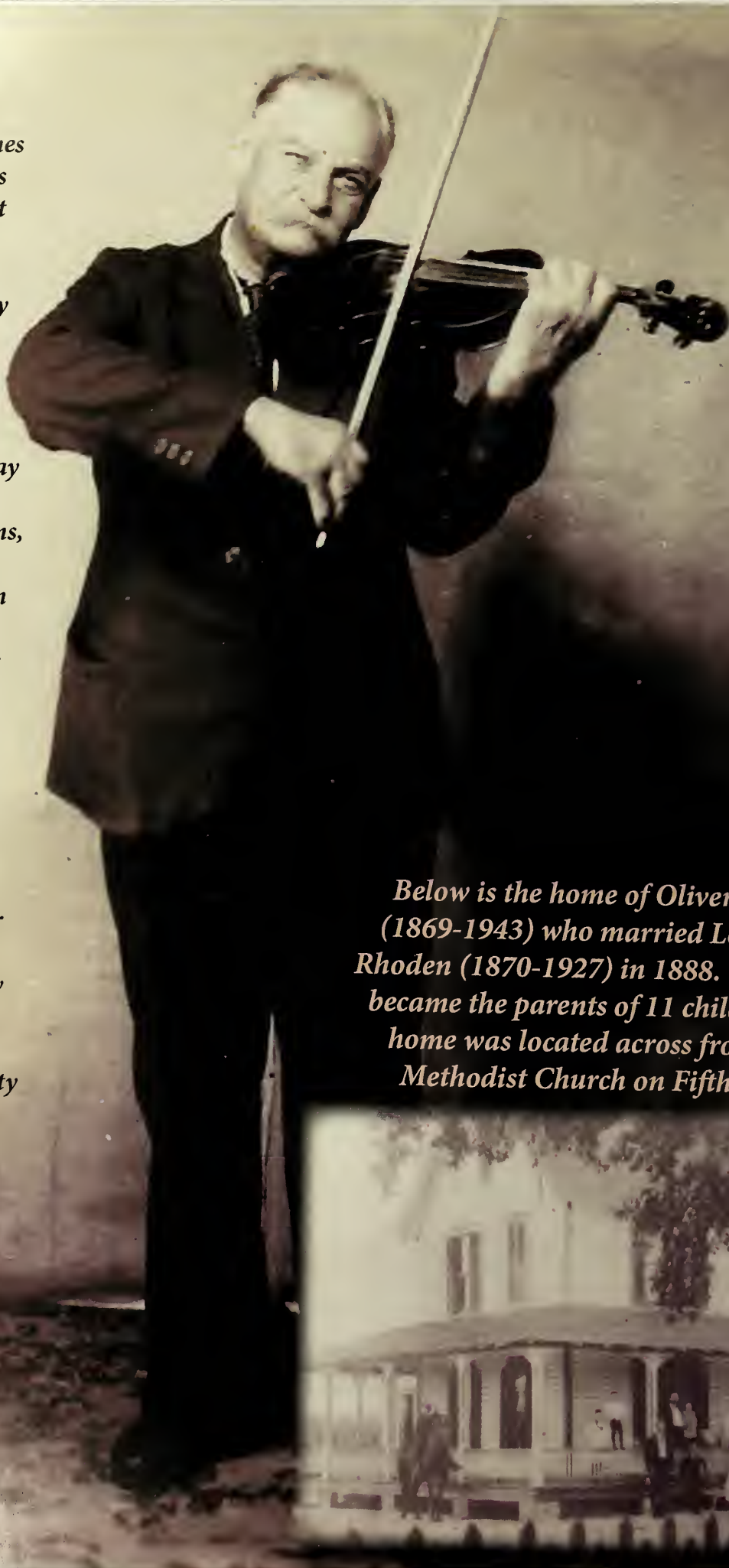
GOVERNOR	CONGRESS
James Barbee	J. G. Cary
James H. Clancy	R. A. Green
Walter B. Fraser	Charley E. Johns
Spessard L. Holland	
Carl Maples	STATE SENATOR
B. F. Paty	J. Slater Smith
Burton Schoepf	Lewis E. Wilson
Frederick Van Roy	JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT
Hans Walker	A. Z. Adkins
Fuller Warren	Henry L. Gray
Francis P. Whitehair	D. E. Knight
UNITED STATES SENATOR	CLERK CIRCUIT COURT
C. O. Andrews	J. A. Burnett
Jerry W. Carter	Joe Dobson
Charles Francis Coe	C. W. Klein, Jr.
Fred P. Cone	
O. B. Hazen	SHERIFF
Bernarr MacFadden	S. R. Green
ATTORNEY GENERAL	J. I. Harvey
Ed R. Bentley	W. A. Pierce
Millard B. Conklin	
E. B. Donnell	TAX ASSESSOR
E. B. Martin	David T. Crews
J. Tom Wason	L. W. Dykes
COMPTROLLER	Vandie Harris
Frank Brown	B. F. Jones
E. G. Fraser	COUNTY JUDGE
J. M. Lee	W. M. Brown
TREASURER	Ray Dinkins
J. Edwin Larson	Frank Dowling
R. L. Richard	
W. M. Wainwright	SUPERINTENDENT
RAILROAD COMMISSIONER	J. D. Burnsed
W. B. Douglas	Joe E. Kelly
S. C. Peacock	W. H. Milton

Results will be announced Wednesday night April 24th at The Baker Theatre and also published in The Press Friday April 26th. Only one ballot can be furnished to each person. Don't ask for two.

*Identified in photo are: Walter Fraser; Slim McDaniel, owner of the Old Jail in St. Augustine, Florida, McClenny, and Baker County residents: Charlie Klein; Glen St. Mary, E.W. Crockett, Jr.; McClenny, Londa Thrift, Leo Dykes, Billy Crockett, Robert Dinkins, and Eugene "Speck" Walker*



*On January 26, 1925, the Florida Times Union reported that James Oliver Milton was Florida's foremost fiddler. Oliver would play from his east McClenny front porch in the evenings and his music could be heard all over town. On Saturday mornings, Oliver would kill chickens, wrap them up in newspapers, catch the greyhound bus in front of his house, and travel to Jacksonville to sell the chickens to people on Bay Street. Then he would return home by bus. He was also a master calligrapher working to supply fancy newspaper ads and doing wedding and party invitations for social events.*



*Below is the home of Oliver Milton (1869-1943) who married Lou Dicey Rhoden (1870-1927) in 1888. The couple became the parents of 11 children. The home was located across from First Methodist Church on Fifth Street*





# THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY



Mr. Tillman Dorman was the oldest of nine children to John T. and Janie Davis Dorman in 1878, northwest of Sanderson. His grandparents were John and Ginchy Dorman, pioneer settlers in the area. His maternal Grandfather, John Davis, was killed in the War Between the States. He met Nettie Bynum while she was visiting her sister, Mrs. Ed. Henson, in Sanderson. They were married in March 1900. Mr. Dorman worked as a merchandise clerk of the Canova estate in Sanderson. He remembered the famous movie star, Judy Canova, as a little girl playing barefoot and pigtailed in the street with other children. Later, he took a job in McClenny working as manager of the Pons Estate, which was a large merchandise store. On Christmas Eve night, the store was burned but much of the store's merchandise was saved. With what was salvaged, he rented a vacant building on Fifth Street and Railroad Avenue and continued on with the business. In May 1906, Mr. Pons sold out his store to M.T. Howell and Dr. Eustis Long. He then accepted a position as bookkeeper for the Irvin Rhoden Mercantile Company in McClenny. In 1910, the Dorman's purchased a lot from Dr. Long and Mrs. Nettie Dorman drafted the plans for her unique "Suits Us" house at the south west corner of McIver and College Streets.



*The only man identified in the photo is in the middle, Oliver Grady Milton (1902-1976).*



In 1912, Mr. Dorman was appointed agent in Baker County for the Standard Oil Co. of Kentucky. He held this position for 44 years until his retirement on September 30, 1956. His position was filled by L.V. Hires who, Mr. Dorman said, had been a "faithful and efficient" employee with the company for 20 years. The Dormans, he (1876-1964) and she (1881-1970) are buried in a private mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery south of McClenny.

*Built in 1910 and designed by Mrs. Dorman; however, the townspeople criticized the unusual design of the house, so Ms. Dorman had a sign made to hang at entrance saying "Suits Us" in rebutal. Still standing at time of publication 2014.*





*1924 Baker County Sales Company, McClenny, Florida, later became Dinkins Motor Company. Located where present day Council on Aging stands, McClenny Avenue and College Streets.*



*McClenny Mercantile Merchants Co. 1900, Emma (Barfield) and Marshal Howell with son, Ralph*



*Hardware Brown Store in the Hotel Annie Annex*

*Digging the first swimming pool in the county; back yard of Wilma Cook & Jesse Frank Morris 1948. Southeast corner of 6th and McIver Streets*







*Glen St. Mary  
Colonizer,  
A. A. Geitsey  
at one of  
his fruit  
groves. He  
and his wife  
influenced the  
organization  
and  
development  
of the town  
probably  
more than  
anyone else.*



*Alverdo Geitsey  
1864-1932*



*The Geitsey House (pronounced Get-che) of Glen St. Mary was first owned by A. A. Geitsey and his wife, Lucy (1885-1958). In 1947, the furnished house was purchased by Tom & Rosie Fraser of Sanderson. The landmark Geitsey House was condemned and destroyed by fire in 2001.*



# HOTEL ANNIE

Baker County's first Hotel Annie was located north of the railroad tracks on 5th St. It was owned by Adolthus D. "Duff" Powers and wife Settie Lou (Rhoden). Visitors from the north could rent a room and have a meal for \$2.00 a day. The rooms wrapped around the entire corner and patrons could sit comfortably in rocking chairs outside their rooms which opened onto the porch. Before the hotel burned down around the turn of the century, meals were served in the Hotel Annie restaurant for fifty cents....and that was all you could eat. The hotel was re-built on the corner of Hwy 90 and 5th Street, directly behind the old one. The hotel was named in honor of the owner's daughter, Annie Powers Wells.



*First Hotel Annie -  
McClenny, Florida  
1921*

*The second Hotel was  
built facing Hwy 90  
(McClenny Ave). Rooms were  
rented upstairs where the  
Powers family lived. A Sundry  
store, owned by the Powers,  
faced the corner entrance.*



People rode the train from Jacksonville to eat at the restaurant especially famous for its golden fried chicken. The chickens were slaughtered and dressed daily at the back door of the restaurant for serving the patrons. Only fresh vegetables were served at the large round tables and visitors from the north got their first taste of southern "grits".

*The inside of the Second Hotel Annie. To the left is  
longtime cook, Annie Jackson.*





# THE MORRIS HOUSE

For many years, the Morris House was major attraction in McClenny. The two story landmark was operated from 1940 to 1957 by Georgia natives, Pascal Lafayette and Mary Jane Thursbay Morris. The couple's successful boarding and dining was patronized by persons from all sections of the nation, including four governors and two U.S. Senators. All the food was cooked on a wood burning stove because Mrs. Morris reported it was more economical and baked better bread.

*The Morris House first faced McClenny Ave. and later moved to face North Fourth St., as seen in this picture.*



On the busiest of days, the guests and locals were served breakfast consisting of grits, oatmeal, pancakes, ham, sausage, bacon, eggs, country butter, toast, biscuits, jelly, syrup, coffee, and milk. For dinner: fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, roast beef and brown gravy, salad, creamed potatoes, string beans, stewed corn, lima beans, squash, rice, okra, biscuits, cornbread, Georgia hoecake, homemade pie and cake, coffee, tea, and buttermilk. At supper the menu was steak, pork chops, and fried chicken and the same vegetables as served at noon. The Morris couple, now deceased, once estimated they served 150 people daily, three meals a day, and seven days a week. When they first started serving in 1940, dinners were thirty-five cents for weekdays and fifty cents on Sunday. During the war, prices were frozen at fifty and seventy-five cents. When the

*Pictured left of table: E. Ed Yarbrough (Baker County Sheriff), Edwin G. Fraser (State Senator and Speaker of the House from McClenny). End of table is Judge J.C. Lyons. Right side of table: unkn, J.B. Altman, State Representative John Crews, Cap Smith, and Jewel Morris serving*



Morris couple closed the dining room in 1957, dinners were \$1.29 including tax and fifty cents for children. The Morris couple bought the boarding house from Kate MacKey who opened in 1932. The Morris family had to close doors in 1957, because their earnings would exceed the maximum amount permitted while collecting benefits from social security retirement. The Morris House was one of the last of its kind that faded from the American Scene.

*The Morris couple on closing day in 1957*





# BRILLIANT MINDS THOSE SIGERS BROTHERS

Three north Baker County brothers were intelligent men despite limited educations. They possessed brilliant, ingenious, and inventive minds allowing them to create things that astounded people around them. Their ideas for the unique were limitless. They were the sons of John Sigers who married Serena Thrift, the daughter of county pioneers James (Jim) and Nancy Raulerson Thrift. The Sigers' brothers Elzy, Marvin and Ralph's common interests was flying and mechanical operations. After Elzy served in the Pacific theater during WWII as a paratrooper, he also obtained his flying license. But his full-time occupation was making moonshine with his brothers. During the heyday of the underground moonshine stills, when production was at its peak, the Sigers brothers did a first for Baker Countians dealing in moonshine. They began to haul their product in an airplane. An airplane they built themselves.



*Ralph Sigers*

*Pictured above is Elzy Sigers with the airplane he and his brother made to smuggle moonshine out of the county. Pictured to the right is Elzy during WWII.*



After the moonshine days were over in Baker County, the brothers found different interests. Elzy became Associate Pastor of Mount Zion Congregational Methodist Church. Marvin and Ralph became chicken farmers with the hobby of searching the country side with Hi-Tech Metal detectors. Most moonshiners in Baker County did so to supplement their meager income.

"Sweet potatoes and opossum was a luxury to us back in them days, and I've even killed and eaten skunks. We'd try most anything. We were always looking for something to eat."  
-- Ralph Sigers

"Daddy learned to read and write in prison and I got my first letter from him while he was there."  
-- Kay Thrift Warner, daughter of Londa Thrift

*Siblings Kay Thrift Warner and Willard Thrift holding the wooden barrell that they found with traces of moonshine in the attic of their father's home.*





## DAVIS OIL

Richard John Davis, son of Sanderson pioneers, started hauling gasoline and what was called coal-oil, now known as kerosene. In 1931, working hard during the Great Depression, Davis carried the fuel in 55 gallon drums on his truck throughout the county, serving homes and farms. Kerosene was used as fuel for lamps and farmers learned that kerosene was a reliable source of heat to cure the popular tobacco crop. Soon the business began to grow and was located near Memorial Stadium in McClenny. The company was a one-man, one-truck operation hauling for Sinclair Oil Company. In 1953, Mr. Davis's only son, Richard "Dickie" Davis, went into the business with his father who retired in 1962. Dickie Davis continued the business with his son, Ricky, who joined the company and next Ricky's son, Max, making four generations to carry on the Davis Oil today. What started with one employee and two trucks back in the 1930s has developed into a successful business with more than 150 company employees.



## CURLY DEKLE

Julian Parker "Curly" Dekle (1912-2004) was a cowboy legend, a real Florida Cracker, and an award-winning folklorist. His whip cracking acts thrilled his audiences wherever he entertained. Curley's father "Judge" Dekle taught him to braid the cow whips at an early age from the bottom up. They became unique. The technique improved the rope's balance, accuracy, and loud crackle. Curley constructs the whips by weighing the belly of the whip with BB pellets rolled in a strip of duct tape. Then he braids the outer layer of leather from the tip toward the handle so that there is no final knot at the tip to interfere with the cracking action. His unique whips were sought after throughout the world.

Among the renowned persons that have one are former President Ronald Regan and former Florida Governor Lawton Chiles. When Curley died in 2004 at the age of 91 he was one of the last authentic Florida cowboys and cattleman.



## RETHA COWART

Retha Dowling Cowart is one of 12 children born in 1899, to Aaron and Julia Dowling of Taylor, Florida. She married Zade Cowart in 1919. Both were truly frontier pioneers.

*"Mis" Retha was still making biscuits at the age of 90 years old.*



# PICNIC

McClenny High  
School students  
and some teachers  
on a picnic in 1924,  
in White Springs,  
Florida



l-r: Mae Broom, Professor Duncan, Ernon Fraser, Thelma Drawdy, Pauline Rose, Eugenia Fraser, Aileen Thompson, Sophia Rhoden, Marion Dopson, Miss Taylor, Lonnie Dugger, Harold Milton, Alice Milton, Rose Tyler, Vasco Turner



# CLAUDE BLAIR

Claude Blair, born 1902, married Edith Fraser and together the couple owned Blair's Nursery, south of McClenny. After his untimely death in 1970, Edith married Hugh Griffin owner of the Chevrolet Dealership in McClenny. The Blair family includes Richard, brother to Claude. Both were civic leaders in the early development of the community. Claude & Edith's only child, Gerralee Blair, married Ray Gatlin and carried on the nursery profession with Ray's Nursery in Sanderson.

# JACOB ANDERSON FAMILY

l-r, Lee, Robert, Joe, Ivey, Elvie  
and Ozzie, Mother Emma,  
Father Jacob Anderson, the  
horse is Maude





# PAUL RHODEN

*Baker Counties first Pharmacist and a real Southern Gentleman*



*Paul Rhoden  
(1915-2010), son  
of Carl and Mamie  
Johns Rhoden*

Sundry Store, owned by Dr. Edward W. Crockett, who was murdered in 1938. It was sold by his son, Edward Wray Crockett Jr., to Paul Rhoden and his wife, Violet Rhoden. Paul Rhoden, Dr. Crockett's first Soda Jerk, later became the County's first pharmacist. The store became Paul's Rexall Drug Store. The EDRAV Theatre was next door, named after co-owners Edward Crockett Jr. and his friend Ray Dinkins.



## LEAFIE OLA MANN BRYANT

Leafie Ola Mann was born in 1902 on the 600 acre farm of her parents, John Wesley and Mary Jane Rigdon Mann, located six miles south of Sanderson. When she married Ernie Bryant in 1923, a boy she had known all of her life, she spent her honeymoon at the home of her parents. Ernie built a home for her on an adjoining 40 acres where they raised a family of 13 children. The Bryants never owned a car. Transportation was always by horse and wagon. They grew and raised all they ate, trading produce and eggs for staples such as sugar, coffee, tea, matches, and kerosene. Ernie died in 1971. When one of her children asked her if she intended to have another man in her life she answered spiritedly, "Well, why would anyone want me? I've had my gallbladder out, my appendix out, my eyes operated on, and my female organs removed." "But NO!" she said firmly, explaining that Ernie was the only man for her. Leafie lived out the rest of her life on the same land where she lived for almost a century.



## DENNIS AND PENCIE (HURST) FINLEY

Dennis W. (D.W.) Finley was one of eleven children born to Berry and Lee (Rigdon) who were married December 21, 1881. They settled in Possum Trot Community, near Olustee, before most of the family moved to McClenny. Dennis was born Dec. 8, 1903. He married Pencie L. Hurst on Nov. 24, 1920. The couple farmed and Dennis was Purchasing Agent for Raiford Correctional Institution. He also served as Baker County Tax Collector from 1928 through 1936 and State Motor Vehicle Commissioner from 1937 through 1941. In 1939, under his direction, the Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol Division of State Motor Vehicles, Driver License was instituted. At this same time, new vehicle tags were designed with a county number system. Many of the state's first driver's licenses were signed by Dennis Finley. Dennis and Pencie were the parents of four children, Harold, A.L. (Doc), Maines, Dennis, Jr., (Dub).



## AMANDA FRASER WILLIAMS

*February 28, 1854 - January 30, 1938*

At the age of 85 years, Amanda Fraser Williams was granted a pension by the State of Florida on May 13, 1935, for rendering heroic service to soldiers of the Union and Confederacy by nursing, caring for, and providing them with food, shelter and clothing. For her many acts of heroism, she was awarded a pension in the sum of three-hundred and sixty dollars annually.

Amanda's three brothers were soldiers in the Confederate Army. A rifle used by the Fraser family in the Battle of Olustee, also called the Battle of Ocean Pond, is in possession of Amanda's great niece, LaViece (Moore-Fraser) Smallwood Moser. The Fraser family retrieved many of the wounded Union and Confederate soldiers from the battle field and nursed them back to health or, in the case of death, buried them on the family's property near the north prong of the Glen St. Mary River, north of Sanderson. Amanda is the daughter of Thomas Jefferson Fraser and Emily Burroughs Fraser. She was the wife of John C. Williams, who was also known as "Preacher Jim Williams."



*Old McClenny landmark, now demolished, was the Community Center, used as gymnasium for basketball and other events*



# DR. JEAN DOWLING



*Clarence & Elizabeth Boyd*

Clarence and Elizabeth Stevenson Boyd arrived in Baker County in 1922. He was a native of St. Petersburg, FL, hired as the Project Engineer for paving Hwy 90, the county's first paved road. She was a native of New York, having served as a Lieutenant in the Nursing Corps during WWI, as well as an expert seamstress to the county's elite. The two children of the couple, Alan and Jean, were born and reared in McClenny. When their father died in 1924, their mother married Walter Dopson, a local attorney and Insurance Agent. Jean graduated in 1948 from the University of Florida with a Master's Degree in English and traveled the world often teaching English in places like Papua, New Guinea, and Beijing, China. She taught English locally for many years and worked for 15 years as Director of



*Jean & Alan Boyd*

the Children's Unit at NEFSH. She married Morris Dowling (1919-1988) of Taylor, who worked with the state's Bureau of Weights and the couple reared three children; Bradford, Mark and Meredith in Taylor on 100 acres of land surrounding Morris Dowling Road. Jean is the author of

"If Walls Could Talk" a historical account of a non-fiction format of the renowned Burnsed Block House which is now suggested reading in our Baker County School reading program.



*Jean & Morris Dowling*

After his military service, Alan received his Juris Doctorate and practiced law in Florida. Among the many accomplishments in his life was his appointment in 1959 to the Civil Aeronautics Board by US President Dwight Eisenhower. He was promoted to chairman of that board by US President John F. Kennedy. In 1969, he was appointed Undersecretary of Commerce for Transportation and then President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Alan as the nation's first United States Secretary of Transportation and Florida's first cabinet member. In 1969, Alan left the transportation department to become the President of the Illinois Central Railroad, a position he held until 1972. He was later the president of Amtrak and the president of Airbus Industries. In 1979, he became the Chairman of Warner Blue and Mahan, a Washington, D.C.

based consulting firm working on new technology ventures. He and his late wife, Flavil Townsend Boyd, had one son, Mark. Today Alan lives in Seattle, Washington, near his son, Mark. Jean passed away in 2013.

*LaVie Smallwod Moser &  
Dr. Jean Dowling celebrating  
the opening of "Darbyville" in  
Heritage Park Village in 2006*





# LULA THRIFT

*Nathan (1892-1946) son of Joseph 1871-1955) and Caroline Raulerson Thrift (1873-1950) and Lula (1899-1987) daughter of John Newton (1851) and Sally Arnold Sands (1861)Thrift*

"Nathan hauled the lumber on an ole mule and wagon from the sawmill and built this ole house in 1919 for \$25. It ain't nothing but fat lighter wood but it won't rot away and the termites won't eat it." --Lula Thrift

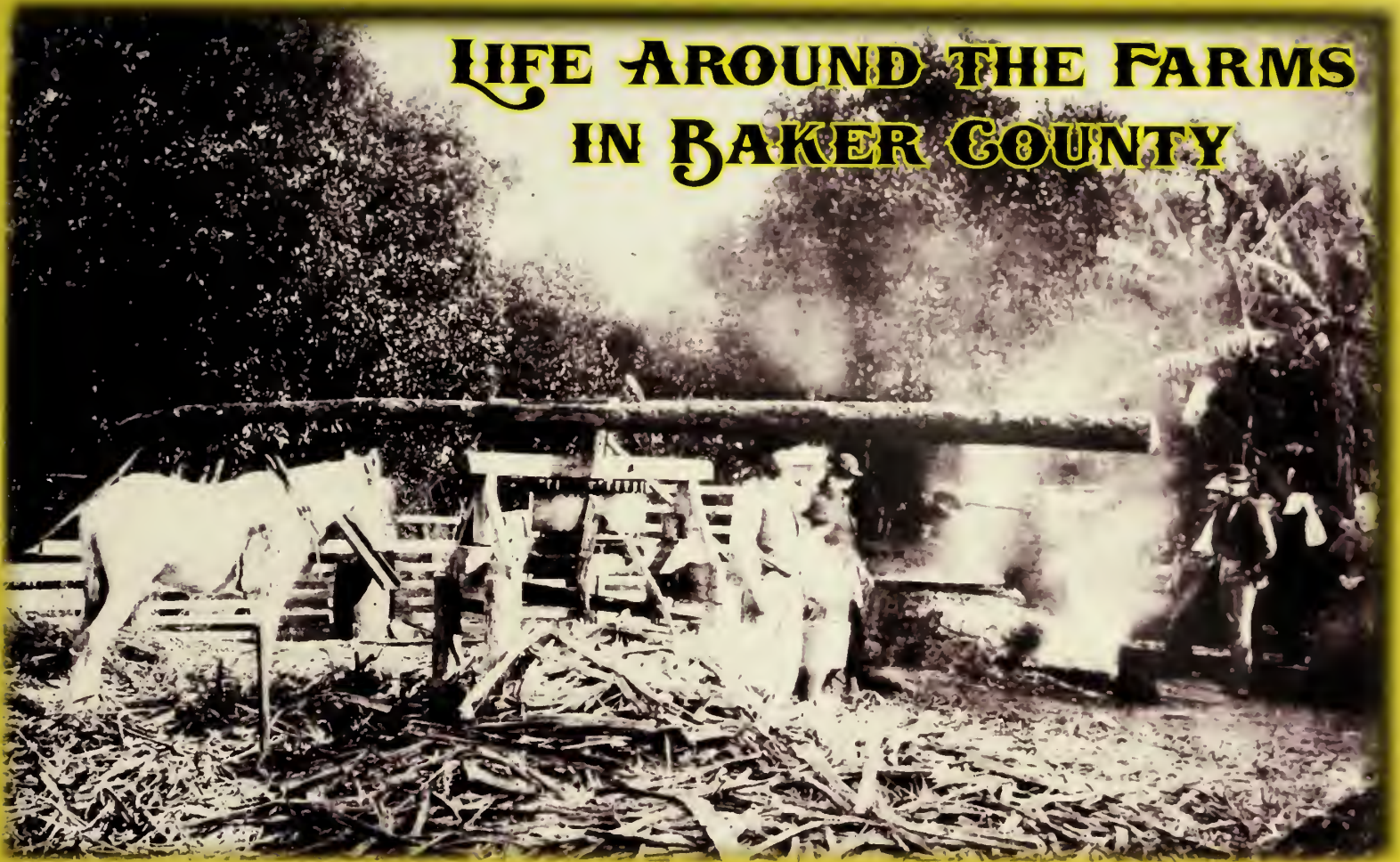
"In them days my mama never told me anything about men, for if she had of I probably never would have gotten married. I didn't know what I was stepping into. I didn't know what else I had to do. I didn't know about—well, you know sex. Nobody knew nothing about such things like that in them days; Mama kept all such stuff like that away from us children." --Lula Thrift



*Lula Thrift in front of her home where she lived for 68 years. Built in 1919 for \$25 by her husband Nathan. They married in 1915.*



# LIFE AROUND THE FARMS IN BAKER COUNTY



1912 Turn of Century Baker County Cane Grinding

**JEWELL LYONS BURNSSED LEWIS** grew up on the farm of her parents, James Cordalero and Nealie Rhoden Lyons. Her frontier pioneer grandparents were farmers Silvester Middleton and Arabella Johnson Lyons. Her great-grandfather Silvester Lyons, a Methodist minister, moved to the Georgia Bend to claim land after his service in the Civil War. Her great grandmother, Harriet, smoked a Corncob pipe and wore high button-up shoes. "I remember we lived in a wood framed, tar papered shanty," she said in a 1994 interview. "We children were taught never to take the best piece of chicken when we had company." Jewell's father made many caskets for Baker County's citizens. He had a pattern and would cut the lumber to be smaller at the head and larger in the shoulder area and smaller at the feet. Her father never charged for his labor that was free and if the people couldn't pay for the lumber, her daddy did. Jewell married her school bus driver, Johnny Burnsed, nine years her senior, and after he died she married Larry Lewis. She became a nurse and a school teacher, but she loved farm life and stayed committed. Their large modern home in north Baker County was surrounded by fields of home grown vegetables and penned up cattle and hogs for butchering. Besides vegetables, the couple grew peanuts and shared their farm grown bounty with family and friends generously.







*William Henry Crawford, son of Sanderson pioneers Arch and Annie Stone Crawford and grandson of Bart and Emma Dowling Crawford and great grandson of William Henry and Henrietta Dowling Stone, wedding photo the day after his marriage to Bernice Combs, daughter of Ivy and Ruth Combs. May 3, 1936*



*Still farming at age 95 in 2011*

## LOCAL FARMERS

"I fell in love with Mattie when I was six and she was three as my mother and I were walking by her house on our way to church. I begged my mother to stop but she wouldn't. I never forgot Mattie and we married when she was 17 and I was 20 in 1937"

-- Otis Canady

"Our honeymoon home was a deserted home with shutter windows and no doors. We slept on a moss mattress and could look up through the wood shingled roof and see the moon and stars. There was a big rat snake wrapped around the rafters just above our bed. Otis told me it was harmless and would eat the wood varmints. My daddy came and put doors up for us and we got rid of the snake."

-- Mattie Canady

*Otis & Mattie Crews Canady  
on their farm in North McClenny*





# TAYLOR COMMUNITY



*The Taylor General Store*



*Harris home in Taylor*



## *Bertha & Isaiah Harris*

To keep her house clean, Bertha Mae Rewis Harris said she often scrubbed her wooden floors with a corn-shuck brush using river sand and lye soap to clean them. Once a month she took her feather pillows and cotton mattresses in the outdoor sunshine to soak up the fresh air. She had to rise before “daylight” each day to prepare breakfast for the family. Isaiah walked five miles through the woods to make his one dollar a day pay. She had to pack lunches in little tin pails for him and her children with things like cornbread, biscuits, sweet potato, and bacon.

“I made everything boys and girls wore on a pedal machine and when I was pregnant and my feet and legs would be so swelled, I’d get one of the children to pedal it for me.” - Bertha Harris

## COLL BROWN



*Coll & Minnie Jane Brown*



*George Colquitt “Coll” Brown and Family, Ray, Lucious, Curtis, Carl, Minnie Lee, Minnie, His wife, Rudolph Basil, Ruth, Dorris*

In 1820-21, the above fortress was ordered built by the Florida’s Territorial Governor, Andrew Jackson, to protect the pioneer settlers from Indian attacks. When abandoned, it is thought James Burnsed converted it into a sturdy home selling it later to the Brown family. Known as the “Burnsed Block House”, it is also known as the Coll Brown House because the Brown’s raised their family in the home.





Bufort and Joyce Fish Thrift, both from frontier pioneer families, ran the Bufort Thrift Farm on Georgia Highway 185 for decades selling no preservatives grain-fed custom cut beef and pork to customers. Their sausages were taken to such far-away places as Canada, Venezuela, West Germany, Vietnam, Korea, California, and Alaska.

*"The traditions of their fathers continue to this day and they have passed along the techniques to their children should they once more have need to do things the pioneer way."*



Nellie Gaskins (born 1907) married Mac Gaskins at the age of 13. She is the mother of 12 from Sanderson. Her children are: Bessie Lee, William Jr. "Dee", Lonnie, Mary Lee, Richard, Lu Mark, Eartha Lee, Gus, Arrie & Mozel all from Sanderson. She is seen "Cooking up a big pot of Chitlins and Pig Tail Pilaf, to feed her large family.

**Raccoon is the family's favorite food  
and Nellie's specialty**

*"My boy just visited me from New York and I had two ready when he got here," she said, "but I ain't going to tell all my ingredients that I put in my 'coon because so many people are wanting to know my recipe," she laughed. "I got an extra touch I put into it and I ain't telling it."*

**Harry Blue of Sanderson at  
the store of Carl B. "Dinty"  
& Blanche Fraser Moore**





# IDA GAINNEY, MIDWIFE



Ida & Novie (sisters)

One of nine children born to a poor working Blacksmith, Daniel Raulerson and his wife Laura Mizel in Moniac, Ga. "Us children would go to bed so cold and so hungry. Sometimes we'd take feed sacks and stuff them with corn shucks or moss to sleep on.. Part of the time we didn't have clothes to wear. I had one dress I wore to school. I'd come home and change into a rag, eat a cold onion sandwich, then next day wear my good dress back to school." At the age of 15, she married Odus Gainney who made \$1.25 a week working as a section laborer with the Southern Railway. Poverty didn't improve. More often than not the only thing they had to eat for breakfast was greens they grew in their garden. In 1926, her only child, Mildred, was born. She began to be called upon to help with delivering the neighbor's babies. If the doctor didn't arrive on time, she delivered them herself. One neighbor had 18 children and Ida helped deliver most of them. "Why them women didn't have nothing for pain and most times I'd have to wrap their babies up in an old rag, anything, sometimes it'd be an old skirt or worn out coat. Why sometimes there weren't even a sheet on the bed and I'd pull out one of my clean white towels to lay a head on and the cinches would jump on it like flies. We used homemade octagon soap back then and any old twine we had to tie a cord". One time she said she arrived at the home of a lady on her back in the yard with the baby already delivered lying on her belly. She was fightin' off hogs from trying to eat her baby. Another time she was invited to eat a meal after delivering a baby and all that was on the table was a smoke house bone and cornbread. "Times were very bad in them days," she explained in a 1979 Interview. Ida kept a record of the hundreds of babies she delivered in a little black book.



# DANIEL AND MCKINLEY CREWS

## *Bachelor Brothers in Baxter Area*

McKinley and Daniel Crews were born on a Baxter farm in north Baker County and spent their entire lives rising daily from the same beds, in the same house, under the same roof, on the same farm just like their "ma and pa" used to do.

The brothers cooked their meals separately on the same wood burning stove, washed their own dishes separately, "He's got his water and I got mine", said Daniel. "I scrub my floor and he scrubs his," said McKinley. A small brick and clay fireplace supplies warmth for the brothers and a smoky kerosene lamp provides light. Except for an occasional trip to town, or infrequent visitors, the brothers said they have little contact with the modern world. "Someone gave me a little old

thing that talks (radio) but I don't know where it gets its news," said Daniel. "I got some education, but I don't take it to heart. I don't use it." As for politics, the brothers said they are "stuck on Democrats". "I threw my pocket book over the fence in Hoover's time," McKinley said, "Had to. Didn't have any money to go in it."



"This ole stove's about wore out as I am," McKinley said as he removed a pan containing eight king-sized golden brown biscuits from the oven. "Come over here and you can see how he makes biscuits," Daniel said, holding up a wooden spoon from a bowl containing a lumpy flour mixture. "The health woman told me not to use hog grease, so we just put in some of that there Crisco and them yonder powders," McKinley said, pointing to a box of powdered milk on the table. "Just put all you want in a dish and stir it up, that's the way you do it," "Now you can't put too much water, 'cause if you do you'll never make biscuits," Daniel cautioned. "They'll be too soft."

The brothers have favorite dishes they eat from. "That's the young'un still in us, I guess," McKinley said. "Our ma got these dishes with coupons out of soap powder." They fill their bowls with a good size helping of grits, adding boiled Irish potatoes with lots of liquid. Biscuits are then crumbled and added to the mixture.

"Hasn't got a name. I just call it somethin' to eat," McKinley quipped. "We said the other day that if flour, bread and Irish potatoes gave out, we'd be in for it," Daniel said. "But once in a while we eat a mess of black-eyed peas."



# WBKF ~ BAKER COUNTIES FIRST RADIO



*Fay Rhoden Raulerson wife of Ivie Jackson "Jackie" Raulerson (they married when she was 15)*

The Rev. William Riley Rhoden was born in Baker County in 1863, to William W. and Keziah Drawdy Rhoden. His marriage to Elizabeth C. "Lizzie" Touchton (1868-1942) produced ten children and the posterity of this couple has provided great numbers of Baker County citizens. Their sons were Gustavus "Gus" Mansfield Rhoden (1886-1960), married to Ollie Johns Rhoden (1892-1949), Bartholemew Timothy, Sr. (1896-1974), married to Ferol Mary Rebecca Hall Rhoden (1899-1979), and Otis S. ( B 1906-1970) who married Lamar L.( 1907-1976). Daughters were Amanda, Sparta, Lola C., Lucinda Jane, and Mozelle. Woodrow Wilson Rhoden (1918-1987) was the son of Gustavus "Gus" and Ollie Rhoden. In the years to come, Gus and Ollie's son would marry Louise Burnsed. Their daughter, Fay, would marry Ivie Jackson "Jackie" Raulerson, son of Condly "Coot" and Mollie Nipper Raulerson. The couple would become the first to bring a radio station to the county, WBKF. As DJ's, their daughter, Melody (Combs) would spin records as would Bob Dyle. Fay managed the station by selling advertising, writing, and producing the commercials. And Jackie was a "Jack of all trades" and filled in the blanks with expertise. He had



*Jackie, at age 21, serving in the coast guard in Cordova, Alaska. He and wife Fay had an apartment in the building pictured in back of him and also pictured is their Studebaker*

joined the Coast Guard to learn electronics. He was so proficient he became known as a Super Chief Electronic Technician. His profession took him around the world as a Chief Engineer for major projects. His proficiency was in great demand. Finally, he chose to move closer to the place he always called home, McClenny. He went to work for Ed Bell at WIVY Radio Station in Jacksonville as Chief Engineer and later Chief Engineer at WQIK with owner Marshall Roland. Later, Jackie put all of his talent to work when he and his wife Fay brought the first and only radio station, WBKF, to McClenny. And the 40 acres he and Fay owned north of town always had an abundance of fresh vegetables growing and Jackie and his father in law, Woodrow, and City Manager, Gerald Dopson, tilled another 1,000 acres for commercial growing and storing in silos large enough to hold 30,000 bushels of their soy beans and corn. He easily admits farming is his first profession.....and family his first love. But he is proud he also used his talents to own and operate, with his wife Fay, the very first radio station in Baker County Florida.



*Ivie "Jackie" Raulerson*



*Fay's parents, Woodrow and Louise Rhoden, WBKF DJ Bob Dyle, Jackie and Fay Raulerson about 1982*



# MISS BAKER COUNTY 1959



*Front row left to right: Peggy Prevatt, Linda Jones, Janice Monds, Ann Godwin, Paulette Mikell, Glenda Fish, Barbara Crews, Linda Thornton, Betty Jean Rhoden, Carolyn Mobley, Betty Jean Starling, Fern McDuffie and Pat Dinkins. Second row: Jamie Kay Walker, Jo Ann Jones, Marian Loadholtz, Sherrill Johns, Faye Johns, Sandra Canady, Carol Fish, Glenda Bennett and Ernestine Owens. Third row: Claudia Tharpe, Thelma Yarbrough, Deloris Bryant, Jean Cowart, Marsha Dean Milton, Rosselle Taylor, Pat Smith, Judy Tharpe, Maxine McDade, Donna Bethea, Flora Mae Howard. Cut from the photo is Tonnie McPhatter.*

*First Miss Baker County Pageant affiliated with Miss America. Event Chairman LaViece Moore Smallwood (author of this book)*



*Former beauty queens appeared at the 1959 Miss Baker County Pageant (l-r) Sharon Bennett Crews (1956 Homecoming Queen), Patsy Owens Carswell (1955 Miss Baker County), Judith Collins (1955 Homecoming Queen), Gedone Raulerson Layton (1954 Homecoming Queen), Lois Jean Thrift Smith (1953 Homecoming Queen), Jean Douberly Sapp (1952 Homecoming Queen), Virginia Ware Yarbrough (1949 Pine Festival Queen), Ginger Rhoden Townsend (1948 Pine Festival Queen), Margorie Rowe McGlashan (1947-48 Miss McClenny), Carolyn Wolfe Keen (1945 Miss McClenny), Beulah Yarbrough Sands (Service Queen), Anita Gilbert Bailes (1943 Miss McClenny), Wilma Cook Morris (1932 Miss McClenny), Opal Raulerson Taylor (1930 Miss McClenny)*



# HAROLD AND FAY MILTON



Harold and Fay Mathews Milton's exceptional lives probably made the greatest impact on the development of Baker County's educational and social advancement, more so than any other couple of their era of time. Modest in nature, their achievements would rival even the most acclaimed and accomplished. They were a phenomenal couple whose example was exemplary throughout their long lives of service to family, friends, and community. The example of their influence will most likely not pass our way again for they were unique.

"I came to McClenny to apply for a teaching position and married the school superintendent. Harold was the youngest school superintendent ever elected in the state of Florida and was the first person I ever voted for. It was a big change in my life. Life and lifestyles were different in Hawthorne where I grew up near Gainesville. The people there had better opportunities for education and fine arts. McClenny had no paved streets, cows roamed all over town, there was very little opportunity for higher education and no ballet or piano. Many people were void of electricity and phones. I learned quickly to love the people. Baker County has been so good to us." --Fay Milton



*Last Man's Club in McClenny (July, 1986) left to right Lonnie Dugger, R.R. (Webb) McClenny, Harold Wolfe, Harold Milton, Clifford Price & Jimmy Burnsed*



# SANDERSON

Sanderson, once the county seat of Baker County, is today an unincorporated town west of the current county seat of McClenny. At first glance it seems sparsely populated but it has not been so since the Civil War days when large rambling homes, a hotel, grist mill, blacksmith shop, lumber yards, mercantile stores, gas stations, and restaurants existed along Hwy. 90 known at the time as the National Highway. Today, however, much of that is gone, but the residents have lingered and reared generations of their ancestor's descendants there. While the trains still roar through the town, they no longer stop. Old time residents can no longer see the swinging lanterns giving light to visible passengers or watch if they either stopped to fill up at the water tank or roar through and snatch the mail bag from the mail pole. But from many of the front porches of their homes built in a row parallel to the tracks and Hwy 90 they knew everything going on in the town that only had one telephone until the mid 1950s. Sanderson, pronounced by old timers as "San'erson", is still the place generations of descendants from the first frontier pioneers love to call home.



*Old Canova Home in Sanderson, Florida, located across rail road tracks on the northwest corner where present day post office stands. The horse is Prince, the same horse George Paul Canova was riding when assassinated June 5, 1898. Thaddeus Hill, is holding the horse. The Mann family later owned this home. Built by the Canova Family in 1880's and was later remodeled by Lillie Mann. Canova's returned for years and held reunions.*



*Albert and Lonnie Canova at home in Sanderson Florida.*

*Lonnie Canova served as a County Judge in Duval County for many years.*





# CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS REUNION



*1912 Sanderson Pioneers and Veterans at Confederate Soldier's Reunion, Jacksonville, Florida, from left to right: Sophia (Davis) Dowling, wife of Darling Dowling, William Henry Stone, Sr., Darling W. Dowling, Henrietta Stone (Sister to William Henry Stone, Sr.) seated: Harriette Stone, wife of William Henry Stone, Sr., Lazarus Dowling and Melinda Dowling. NOTE: All Baker County Veterans in this photo were injured in the confederate war. William Henry Stone was injured in the ankle and hip, (notice him leaning). A part of Darling W. Dowling's ear and nose is missing. Lazarus (called Lay) was also injured.*

## WILLIAM HENRY STONE

*(March 7, 1843 - November 19, 1917)*

William Henry Stone was born in Pierce County, Georgia, in the Satilla District. He is the son of Moses Allen Stone and Ester Thomas Stone and the grandson of Henry Stone and Precilla Johnson Stone. He married Henrietta Dowling of Baker County, Florida. He became a Confederate Soldier on May 22, 1862, at 19 years old. He was captured on September 14, 1862, in the Battle of South Mountain Pennsylvania and was later released in a prisoner of war exchange. He was injured a second time in Gettysburg and captured again in the Battle of Strasburg, Virginia, on October 19, 1864. He walked home to his wife and child after his release from the war. He was a school teacher in the Cuyler section of Baker County and is buried in Baker County in North Prong Cemetery.

His first child, William Henry (W.H.) Stone, Jr., was born while he was away at war. W.H. Stone, Jr. was a prominent merchant in Sanderson, Florida, owning a General Store, grist mill, and cotton gin. He married Mary Levina Rhoden (1869-1942) and their children are: Oliver, Effie, Annie, Colquitt, Ezra, Mattie, and Rosa.







# SANDERSON FOLKS IN

*Sanderson Residents in front of George Canova Home, later Daniel Mann home. All identifications made by the late A.L. Ferreira. Children standing left to right: Ralph Durham, Sybil Roberts (girl), Owen Mann, Tommie Mann, John Godwin, Front row seated left to right: Susie Arnold, Gladys Mann, Nita Arnold, Elise Harvin, Clara Jones, Lottie Jones, Pearl Sparkman (Durham baby), Ollie Mann (barefoot baby), Sadie Mann (baby Grace), Dooly Durham, Mrs. Durham, Addie Mann, Pennie Barefoot*





# THEIR SUNDAY BEST

*Left to right standing: Charley Arnold, Henry Wester, Frank Barefoot, J.W. Durham, George Mann, Elizabeth Babe Roberts, Allie Richardson, America Arnold, Florence Harvin, Tillie Barefoot, Addie Cobb, Jane Mann, Kate Mann, W.D. Mann, Alice Peeks, Bill Peeks, son Eustice on shoulder, Hilory Altman, Malphia Mann, Susan Wilson, Joe Wilson, Molly Godwin, Jim Godwin, John Rigdon, Lewis Roberts, Turb & Joe Mann*





# SANDERSON FOLKS IN THEIR SUNDAY BEST

*Sanderson Residents in front of George Canova Home, later Daniel Mann home. All identifications made by the late A.L. Ferreira. Children standing left to right: Ralph Durham, Sybil Roberts (girl), Owen Mann, Tommie Mann, John Godwin, Front row seated left to right: Susie Arnold, Gladys Mann, Nita Arnold, Elise Harvin, Clara Jones, Lottie Jones, Pearl Sparkman (Durham baby), Ollie Mann (barefoot baby), Sadie Mann (baby Grace), Dooly Durham, Mrs. Durham, Addie Mann, Pennie Barefoot*

*Left to right standing: Charley Arnold, Henry Wester, Frank Barefoot, J.W. Durham, George Mann, Elizabeth Babe Roberts, Allie Richardson, America Arnold, Florence Harvin, Tillie Barefoot, Addie Cobb, Jane Mann, Kate Mann, W.D. Mann, Alice Peeks, Bill Peeks, son Eustice on shoulder, Hilory Altman, Malphia Mann, Susan Wilson, Joe Wilson, Molly Godwin, Jim Godwin, John Rigdon, Lewis Roberts, Turb & Joe Mann*







# JAMES MADISON FRASER FAMILY



*James Madison Fraser (1842-1913) married Frances M. Silcox, standing l-r Olin Frances, Jessie R. Edna & Alma (twins) Melissa (sister), seated left to right, John, Lewis, Robert, Harney, Will & Tom*

James Madison Fraser represented Clay and Baker Counties in 1888, as Florida State Senator. More than 5 decades later his great nephew, Edwin Gary Fraser, served the same counties for two terms in Florida's House of Representatives and three in the Senate before being chosen Secretary of the Florida Senate in 1963.



*Combined family of James Madison Fraser, 1st wife Frances M. Silcox & 2nd wife Lizzie Crews, in-laws, children & grandchildren, left to right: Jessie Ursey (Lewis' wife) Lewis, Clifford, Hunter (Alma's daughter), Sara, Cary (children of Lizzie) Henry Hansell (Melissa's son) Melissa, Henry Cribbs (Olin's husband) Harney, Will, John & Tom Seated: Edna, Alma (twins) Elizabeth Crews (2nd wife) George Ann Berry, Olin Fraser Cribbs, Lilly Burney (Harney's wife), Emma Alderman (Rob's wife) Olin & Henry's daughter Maida (Harney's daughter) Pauline, Lillie Mae & Ruth (Rob's children)*



# LEWIS FRASER



*Lewis Fraser (1802-1887), son of Mordecai, brother to Thomas Jefferson Fraser, husband to Latilla Caulk 1824-1895 whose children were Ann Eliza 1847-1855, Clarissa 1848-1855, Elizabeth 1853-1853, Daniel 1856-1857, Lewis Ellen 1859-1860, Bettie 1856-1925 and Jane 1864-, Lewis had a second wife: Mary Ann Covington*



*Clemon Cogdell Fraser in front of his home he shared with his wife Bettie Fraser Fraser and their daughter Mary (Clemon Cogdell & Bettie married as first cousins)*

*James "Jim" Fraser and wife Lizzie Howard Fraser*



*Clemon Cogdell Fraser, son of Thomas Jefferson, grandson of Mordecai Fraser married Bettie Fraser, daughter of Lewis Fraser on January 17, 1864 and bore 16 children: Samuel Elias, Sarah, Lewis Thomas, Margaretta Eugenia, James Brantly, Infant Daughter, Clemon Cogdell, William Letilla, John Lila Crosland, Mary E, Martha A, Infant Son, Annie J., and Sidney C.*

**CLEMON COGDELL FRASER AND BETTIE FRASER FRASER**



# B.H. AND MARANDA FRASER

## AND CHILDREN



Clem



Emma



Lizzie



Martha  
Bell



Lewis



Daisy



Addie



Leon



Tom



not shown is Hattie (who died as a baby)



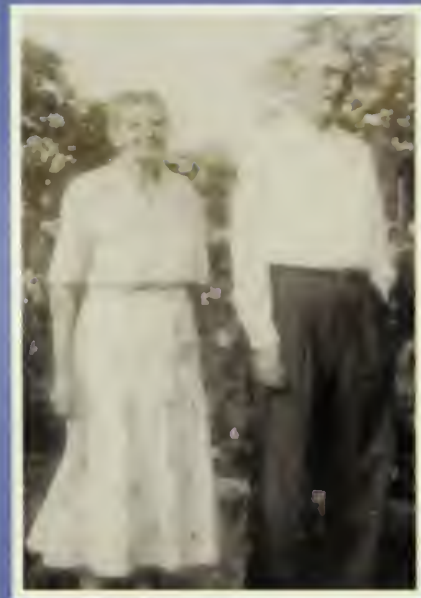
# THE FRASERS OF SANDERSON



*B. H. Fraser, school board member, merchant, and voice teacher whose students entertained county wide functions*



*Daisy Fraser and George Dobson (daughter of B.H. and Maranda)*



*Lewis & Bessie Rowe Fraser (son of B.H. and Maranda)*



*1912... Clem Fraser with parents Brantly Harrison and Maranda Bowyer Fraser*



*Elizabeth Helen Fraser, daughter of B.H. & Maranda, with husband Frances Marion Barry, children Mattie, Venia, Maude, Clifton and Marion*



*Fraser Family, Sanderson Residents, l-r, Gladys Mann Fraser (wife of Clem), Daisy, Emma, Leon, Tom, George, Dobson (husband of Daisy), Brantly Harrison, sister Mandy Williams, grandson Warren (son of Clem) & Lewis*



*First Cousins, l-r, Donald, Wilber, Eunice & Mattie Dobson, children of George & Daisy Fraser Dobson, Maude, Harold, & Brantly Fraser, children of Tom & Rosie Fraser*



# 7 GENERATIONS OF MERCHANTS



*TB and CC Fraser Grocery, Sanderson, FL, pictured left to right are Lewis Roberts, Abe Canova, Calvin Greene, T.B. Fraser and an unknown person*



*Thomas (Tommy) and his father Thomas Brantly Fraser. Sanderson merchants who bagged their staples for customers by the pound such as grits, rice, beans and sugar. Seven generations have followed as grocery merchants since the first Fraser who peddled in the 1850s through the backwoods of Baker County. Customers charged their groceries until their annual crop of tobacco or cotton was harvested. The credit ledgers, written in pencil, are available in Heritage Park Village dating back to the late 1800s. At one time a family of 12 could buy a hog's head and enough dry beans and grits with a ten cent bunch greens and feed their family for less than fifty cents.*



*Picture of Tom Fraser (1885-1974) grocery store in Sanderson, FL, ca. 1925, and his children left to right Tom Fraser, Enoch, Clem "Red", small boy is two year old Tommie, Alton, Claude, Blanche (polio victim) with crutch and Maude. Missing Brantly and Harold and wife Rosie.*



*Brothers Tom & Clem Fraser (sons of B. H. & Maranda)*



*Father  
& Son  
Tommy  
& Tom  
Fraser*



# TOM AND ROSIE FRASER



*Tommy, 2 year old son of Tom and Rosie*



*Parents of  
9 children,  
owners of  
Fraser Grocery  
in Sanderson,  
Florida*

*B. H. Fraser with son  
Tom on right and  
sons Clem & Leon  
standing in the rear,  
dog in front of Tom*



*Tom & Rosie with grand-daughter LaVie  
Moore (author of this book)*





*Maude Fraser (daughter of Tom and Rosie) granddaughter of B.H. Fraser, wife of Dana J. Jones*

*Below, is Maude Fraser as a baby in a small wooden rocking chair*



*Maude, Rosie, Tom, Enoch, Clem, Harold & Tommy Fraser, 1937 Sanderson*

*Blanche Fraser Moore, daughter of Sanderson pioneers Thomas and Rosie Fraser, during the 1920s. Blanche was a victim of polio at the age of 18 months during a county-wide epidemic of the disease. At age 17, she wore 25 pairs of cotton stockings on her polio leg to make it as large as the other and hopefully no one would notice. She became a successful Jacksonville business woman and never allowed the disability to hinder her. She was an awesome cook, particularly known for her chicken and dumplings that she was still cooking and taking to family reunions into her 80s.*





# MYSTERIES OF THE FRASER FAMILY

When Edwin Gardner Fraser served as a State Senator, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of the Florida Senate, he was approached by a lady who told him she had been researching the Fraser family. She gave Edwin proof perfect that the Fraser family was at one time French Jews who had fled persecution in France into Scotland for refuge. She even had the original Jewish name before the refugees arrival in Scotland where they worked for a man who grew strawberries. The employer changed the family's Jewish name to Fraser meaning "strawberry". The first known ancestor of the Baker County Fraser family who has been traced to South Carolina in the 1700s is Mordecai Fraser. The name implies a Jewish heritage, but he named his only two known children Thomas Jefferson and Lewis. The family has been traced to Marlboro County, South Carolina, before the migration to Florida, yet Mordecai's census record lists he was born in North Carolina. Unfortunately, Edwin Fraser's notations on the lady's identification and notes on the Fraser family have not turned up so the Fraser family is only left with this mystery.

Edwin passed away leaving massive papers and documents pertaining to his political career and among them must have been the unidentified lady's correspondence and research. It is known, however, that in 900 A.D. a band of Normans settled in Northern France and the simple King of France was obliged to cede to these Normans the fertile province, later called Normandy. He also gave his daughter in marriage to Rollo Chief of the Normans. Rollo embraced the Christian religion and the Knights were given battle training to live in by peace or by force of arms. The Norman French figured largely in the Huguenot faith and the struggle for religious freedom. Thus, the Jewish faith was persecuted and many who were not killed fled into other countries such as Scotland and the Netherlands. There they lived until the discovery of America and the hope for new frontier. The B.H. Fraser clan were immigrants from Scotland. According to Lonnie Dugger, former Baker County School Superintendent, Mordecai's son, Thomas Jefferson Fraser, who first came to Baker County and his children had heavy Scottish accents. The Baker County Frasers settled in Bennettsville, Marlboro County, S.C. Thomas Jefferson and Lewis, sons of Mordecai, arrived in Baker County in approximately 1840. Thomas stopped off north of Sanderson in the Cedar Creek section and Lewis and his son, Clemmon Cogdell, continued on to Alachua County, Florida. Eventually, some members of Lewis's descendants came over to Baker County where one, James, started Southern States Nursery. His son Edwin became a Florida State Senator, Speaker of the House and Secretary of State. He was known as a member of the Pork Choppers (influential politicians) and an honest politician.

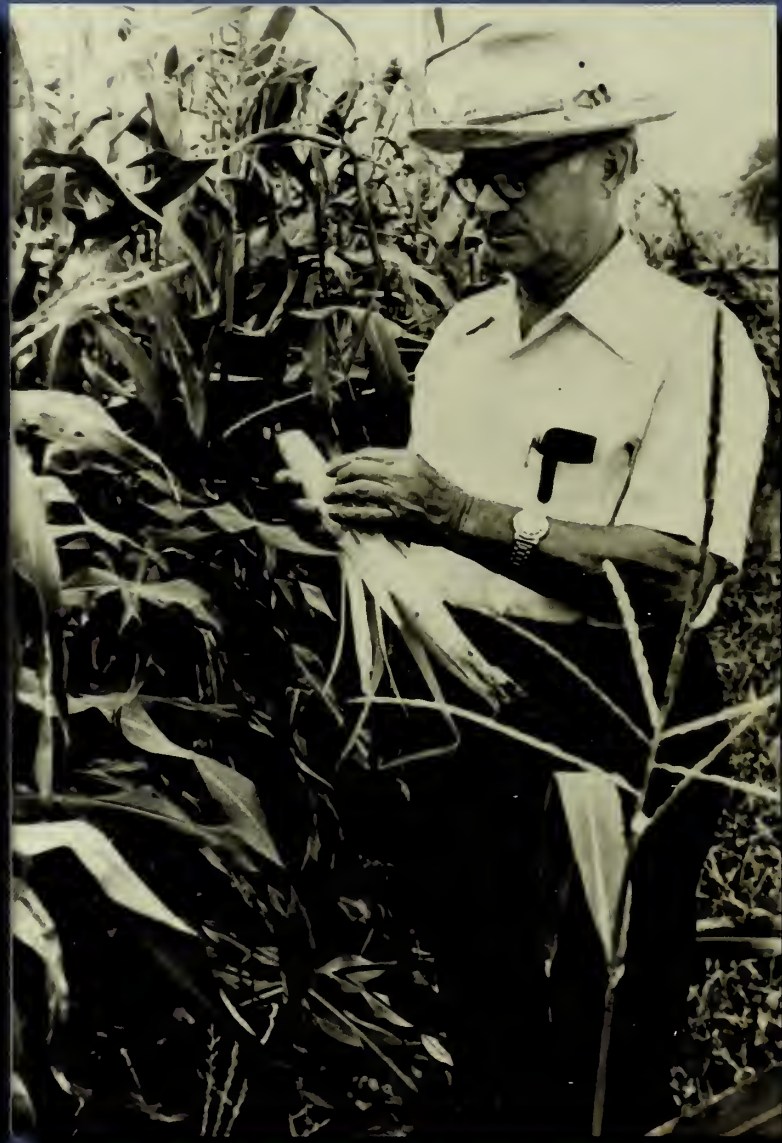


*Brantly H. Fraser suffered a sun stroke and had to keep his feet in a pan of cool water*

*"We'd see him coming and we would know to run and get the foot tub and fill it with cool water. He would roll up his pant leg and stick his feet in the tub and pretty soon, he'd be cooled off"*

*--Mattie Dobson Roberts, Granddaughter*





James Fraser, owner of Southern States Nursery, farmer and lover of the land. James passed his nursery business on to his son Edwin, then on to Edwin's son, Gary, and now to Gary's son, Ryan. Four generations of nurserymen. Edwin Fraser shown both top right and bottom right was a Florida State Senator 29th District, 1947. In Serenity Gardens, the entrance to Heritage Park Village, the following quote from Senator, Edwin G. Fraser stands as a monument to this faithful and trusted servant.

"I have worked for the highest hopes and aspirations for the people of baker county. So long as I draw breath they will get the very best from me that God gives me to do with."

*Edwin Fraser, State Senator and  
Secretary of State from Baker County*



**LIKE FATHER LIKE SON**





*Harold and wife Mary Fritz Fraser with baby son, Arnold, Harold is the son of Tom and Rosie Fraser*



*Onie Rigdon and Leon Fraser  
Easter 1948*



*Irene, Ralph and Allie Fraser, children of Onie Rigdon and Leon Fraser*

*In the photo to the right is LaViece Smallwood Moser (author of this book) at the long deserted Fraser Family Cemetery located in the woods on top of a hill at the edge of a field, about 300 feet from County Road 349 in South Carolina. This was found by LaViece and Vince Smallwood in 1975.*



*Enoch Fraser & friend Perry at Enoch Fraser Grocery in Olustee, Florida*



*The Geitsey house (above) was purchased lavishly furnished by Tom and Rosie Fraser. They loved the furniture so well that they took it with them when they left. Standing in front of the home being readied for demolition is Ashlynn & Cassie Smallwood, children of Zac & Shirley Smallwood, grandchildren of author LaViece Smallwood Moser, great great grandchildren of Tom & Rosie Fraser*





April 17, 1983 Dedication  
 Fraser Family Tree Memorial Stone  
 Manntown Cemetery, Glen St. Mary, Florida, Baker County





*Pictured is Elizabeth Helen Fraser Berry, wife of Francis Marion Berry, with her daughter Hattie Maranda Berry. They are visiting the grave of her sister, Martha Bell Fraser Berry, wife of John Berry. Martha and John were the parents of three children, Ralph, Mamie and Thelma. Mamie, was born in 1903 and died in 1904. In October of 1906, Martha Bell travelled by train from Jacksonville with her two surviving children to visit her parents Brantly Harrison and Maranda Bowyer Fraser of Sanderson. While there, she and the children were stricken with a fever. Five year old Ralph died on October 12, 26 year old Martha Ann on October 19, and one year old Thelma on October 24. They are all buried in Manntown Cemetery south of Glen St. Mary where most of the Fraser families of Baker County are buried.*

*Elisha Greene, Thomas Jefferson Fraser, and Enoch Roberts, all frontier pioneers of Baker County, are honored in Manntown Cemetery. More than a century ago those families reared 44 children and today there stands a 5 foot 8 inch monument of smooth, gray Georgia granite. It is etched with the names and dates pertaining to these pioneer families and a tribute to their descendants. An epitaph carved on the monument's base reads:*

***“Those who say love dieth, knoweth not the love of a family... it liveth forever”.***



# SEIFERT'S OF GERMANY

*In Sanderson*

Frederick Ernest Seifert was a member of the German Imperial Army who was born in Offendorf Saxony. He became an American when naturalized in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1930. He had a daughter Hattie and a son Paul who were naturalized at the same time as their father in 1930. Frederick first settled in Bibb County, Georgia, and later Sanderson, Florida, where his son Paul had a popular diner/restaurant. The family grew or raised all they ate. Frederick made his own shoes and those of his family with thick wooden soles and upper rubber.

He used nails to put them together. The family lived the old world typical traditions and literally drew their living from the soil. They made their own clothes. Hattie's son, Harry Simone, built his own dwelling by felling trees, splitting boards for lumber and made most of the furniture. It is not known when the family left Sanderson.



L-R) Jacob "Jake" Simmons (in car), Paul Seifert, Unknown, Harry Simmons (baby) & Hattie Siefert Simmons





L-R Harry Simmons, Hattie Seifert Simmons, Paul Seifert  
(in car) & Unknown girl

Citizenship Certificate for Hattie Elsa (Seifert) Simmone



# THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY RAN THROUGH SANDERSON



# OLUSTEE EARLY 1900'S



*Olustee Manor House, February 1919. Family of Edgar Hays Long, left: John and Catharine Long on horse "Kit", center: (mother) Winifred Long, right: (daughter) Winifred Long on horse "George" (ice house shown in the rear)*

*Smaller photo to the right shows the corner of the house (Portable Canvas House) once used as a temporary home of that family. (Sawmill Street, a lake sits on the right of the road)*



*Photo of the 1918-1921, Olustee, Florida, pecan grove home of the Edgar Hays Long family. The Long family was originally from Rochester, New York, and moved into the newly constructed home in December 1918. In 1919, a retired school teacher, Miss Kate Kinney O'Neill, from Binghamton, NY was hired to school the Long children. The maternal grandparents and their invalid daughter also moved into the home. A description of the home and premises has been written by their daughter, Winifred Long Amdor, who in 1999 was 92 years old living in Orange City, Florida. This photo shows both homes on the property.*



# OLUSTEE



*Sawmill Site at Ocean Pond 1918  
Olustee, Florida*



*Jesse & Oliver Johns,  
Olustee Pioneers  
1909*



## OSCEOLA LODGE - A Baker County Landmark

*Osceola Lodge was built 1933, on the edge of Ocean Pond in the northwest part of the county near the town of Olustee. The lodge was constructed as a recreation hall for the Civilian Conservation Corporation (known as the CCC Camp) that had been established in a nationwide effort by U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt to provide jobs during and after the great Depression. When the economy improved, the Camp was torn down but the recreation lodge remained and was rented to federal employees as a vacation retreat for \$5.00 weekly. In 1953 the lodge was destroyed as there was no money allocated to maintain it.*





*Walter Rhoden's  
first store,  
Olustee, Florida*

*Walter Rhoden's  
second store,  
Olustee, Florida  
1924*



*Below is a Birds Eye View  
of Olustee Battlefield taken  
from the Fire Tower 1946*



*Depot at Olustee*

*Monument of the Battle of  
Olustee 1946*

# OLUSTEE EARLY 1900'S



# CARL BENJAMIN "DINTY" MOORE



Carl B. "Dinty" Moore during WWI on his motorcycle around 1923

January 21, 1899 to November 23, 1969

Dinty moved to Baker County in 1921 when he was 20 years old to help build Hwy 90. He married Blanche Fraser, daughter of Tom and Rosie Fraser of Sanderson, in 1933. The couple had two children Evelyn LaVie and William Thomas. Retired from the Florida Times Union in 1969 (the year he passed away).

## ARNETTA CASON

Arnetta Cason, a native of Olustee, was a Baker County educator who retired in 1987. Ms. Cason influenced generations of children who grew up to love and respect the example she was to them. For many years the Cason family has held a 3-day family reunion celebration in Olustee. Each year they are joined by many friends and family who travel far distances to celebrate the Cason family's life and example in the community where they served in many capacities.



## WILLIE "GEETCH" BROWN

Willie "Geetch" Brown of Olustee celebrated a unique distinction in 1979 when he was said by the US States Social Security Administration to be the oldest regularly employed person in the nation. He proudly accepted a letter of congratulations from President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter. Willie was quoted at the time as saying, 'I've lived a pretty good life but mostly my memories done gone away.'





# PIONEER



A few of our pioneer educators have left written eye-witness accounts of the early education system in Baker County. We learned that most children, up to the turn of the century, seldom attended school, and when they did, it was only when they could be spared from work on the farm. Teachers arrived in a community by horse bringing the Blue Back Speller and other primary books in their saddle bags. They often obtained room and board with a pioneer family. They either rode

their horse or walked with the children to the school that was established in most communities. Many schools were one-room with many grades and children were separated into their class groups by the one teacher for all. Schools were set up in churches, or any available building in the community. Over the years the number of schools in the county fluctuated: 15 in 1879, nine in 1892, 27 in 1908, 19 in 1913, 24 in 1922 and 12 in 1933. Most early schools looked like the one pictured here, built by volunteers from the community.

Prospected teachers were tested in "Normal School" and granted certificates issued in three "grades" according to the grade they achieved on the test. Most were graduates of the 8th grade. Discipline was administered by the tune of the hickory stick. There were no cafeterias. Children brought their lunch from home, in little tin lard buckets, eating what ever was left over from breakfast, or the night before. Notable progress in Baker County's school system began to be made in the early 1930's.



*Around 1925 - 30*

*School Normal Class to Qualify Teachers for Teaching Certificates*

*Left to Right: Donald Dobson, unknown, unknown, Johnny Burnett, Mrs. Pittman, Margaret Hunt, Virginia Coleman, Minnie Burnett, Lois Bethea, Mattie Dobson, Mabel Mann, Grace Mann, Gertrude Dobson, Marie Dimagelio, Cherry Meeks, Professor P.W. Carr, (Teacher) Harold Mann, Grace Blanton and Roxie Boyd.*



# SCHOOLS

*McClenny High School (prior to 1924) located on Sixth Street*



*McClenny High School 1924 at the end of College Street*



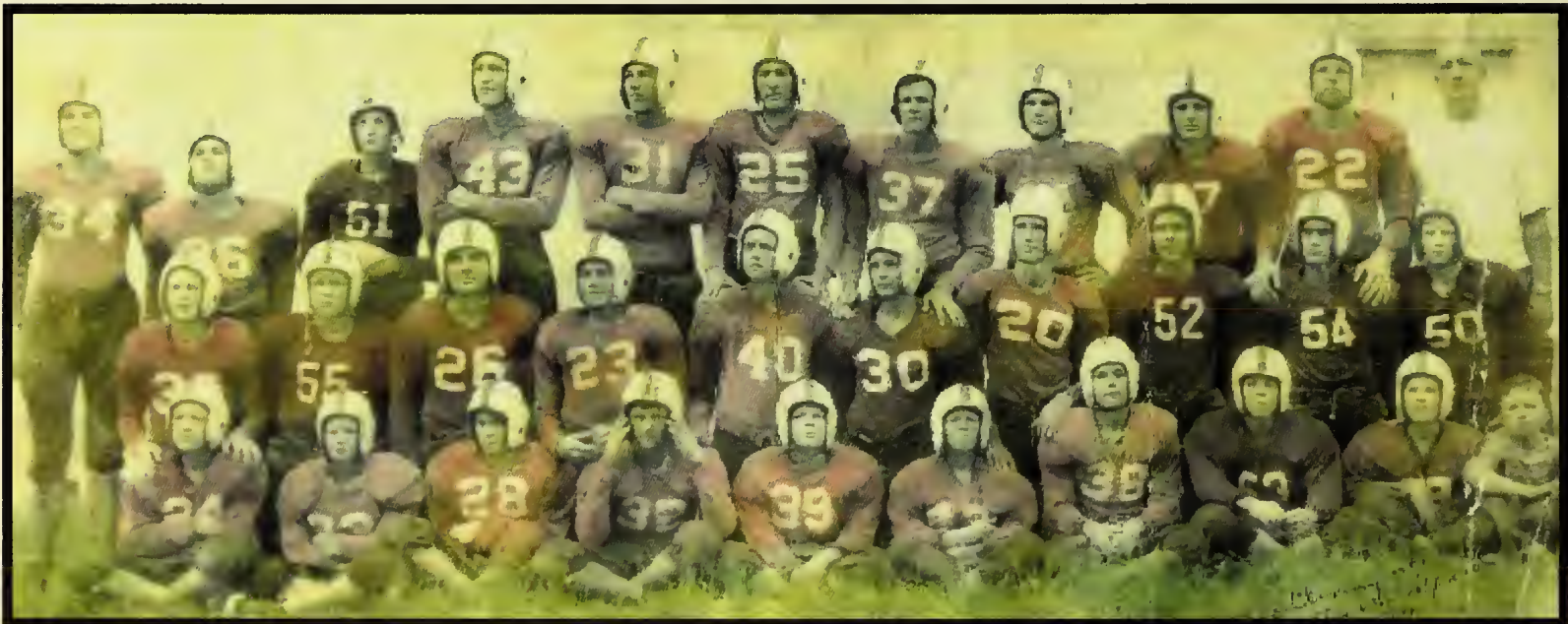
*First McClenny Girl Scouts*

*Kneeling: l-r, Joyce Jones, Charlotte "Toddy" Gilbert, Vernice Mobley, Julia Mae Dyal, unknown, Judy Piatt, Ann Piatt, Nina Yarbrough, Mary Blair, Elizabeth "Libby" Hiers, Jean Douberly, Myrna Rowe, Patricia Hires, Selene Padgett, unknown, Standing: Sylvia Mathews, Hazel Dinkins, Gerra Lee Blair, Carolyn Rowe, Louise Burnett, Wilma Morris (organizer), Jackie Douberly, Wanda Sue Powll, Mary Harvey, Wanda Bostick*





*First Marching Band*



*Bottom row l-r, Eugene Walker, Eugene Johns, Allan Mikell, George Johnson, Waldo Brown, James Thompson, George Reynolds, Marcus Gene Thrift, Charles Lauramore, Pee Wee (Adam) Brinson, Manager. Second row l-r, DeWitt Chessman, Bud Burnett, Ray Powell, Archie "Junior" Roberson, Maines Thornton, Herbert Overstreet, Dwight Jones, Dugan Townsend, Doyle Griffis, Ray Prevatt. Third row l-r, Dickie Davis, Johnny Dykes, Bobby Baker, Dwight Harris, Joe Newmans, Edsel Jones, Joe Barber, Wiley Dykes, Violice Raulerson, Joel Chessman, A.C. Koenienger, Coach*

When the first football team was organized in Baker County, only one of the players had ever seen a football game because television had not come to Baker County and very few radios existed. Jimmy Mot, a railroad employee, volunteered his time to teach the high school boys below the age of 18 how to play football. He inspired the interest of the town's leading citizens who pooled their resources to purchase the team's uniforms when about 25 boys showed interest. Edwin Fraser, a civic leader and Baker County's State Senator drove to Atlanta to get them just in time for the first game of the season in 1945.

The boys dressed out in an old wooden primitive shack and later installed a cold shower. The field the team played on ran north and south just east of the school and required the team to haul many piles of dirt in wheel barrows to fill up the ruts then level it off to have a place to play. The following year the citizens, who came out in full support, got together and purchased poles and lights and Florida Power and Light installed them free. Alan "Pete" Harvey, who made the first touchdown, became Baker County School Superintendent in later years.



**SUPERINTENDENTS  
OF  
BAKER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**A.J.W. Cobb  
1880**



**Charles Dinkins  
1898**



**W. Harold Milton  
1929**



**J.E. Kelly  
1933**



**J.D. Burnsed  
1937**



**Edgar Crawford  
1953**



**Lonnie L. Dugger  
1957**



**Alan Harvey  
1965**



**Michael J. Gazdick  
1973**



**Mitchell T. Starling  
1977**



**Paula T. Barton  
1997**



**Sherrie Raulerson  
2008**





*1898 meeting of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*

*Members of the Black Community sit far right.*

*Photo taken in front the the Sanderson Masonic Lodge, Sanderson Florida*



## **PIONEER CHURCHES**

*Mt. Zion Primate Baptist Church  
served Baptist since the Civil War  
it even survived a tornado in 1939  
that moved the building 4 inches off  
it's foundation*



# PIONEER CHURCHES



*First Baptist Church of McClenny  
Built 1883 on South Sixth Street  
still in the same location today*



## Sanderson Mormon Church

*Standing rear: Joe, Tommie & George Mann, Standing L-R:  
Leonard Arline, Gladys Mann, Sadie & Kitty Mann, Boy at left:  
Emory Woods, Sitting on steps: Sellie & Reid Green, Donald  
& Wilbur Dobson, Ernest Woods & Dick Green, Men on right:  
Henry Wester, W.D. Mann, Judge Mann, holding baby Harold  
Mann, Boy in front: Owen Mann, Small boy: Fred Mann  
Two little girls on steps: Grace & Mabel Mann*



*Macedonia  
Methodist  
Church and  
Cemetery*



# FLORIDA'S 27<sup>th</sup> GOVERNOR



*the Governor's Brother  
Branch Cone, Executive  
Secretary, who lived in  
McClenny*

*Florida's 27th Governor Fred P. Cone and his cabinet members in the meeting room - Tallahassee, Florida, l-r, Nathan Mayo (Commissioner of Agriculture), J.M. Lee (Comptroller), R.A. Gray (Secretary of State), Governor's Executive Secretary Branch Cone (against wall), Governor Fred C. Cone, George Couper Gibbs (Attorney General), W.V. Knott (Treasurer), Colin English (Superintendent of Public Instruction)*

William Branch Cone, a prosperous Baker County Attorney, was born in Benton near Lake City, Florida, in 1882. He married Ruth Carter in 1914, and moved to McClenny to practice law. Their only child, Emily Ruth Cone, was born there in 1914. In 1916, the couple moved into a pretty white frame home built by Dan Howell in 1915. It was one block from Main Street on north SR 121 and known as the Branch and Ruth Cone House. Branch was from a distinguished pioneer family from Benton, near Lake City. Like his father, William Haddock Cone, who fought in the Battle of Olustee, Branch was active in government. His brother, Frederick Preston Cone, served three terms as Mayor of Lake City and was elected as the 27th Governor of Florida from 1936 to 1941. In 1938, his brother Fred suffered a heart attack while in office and Branch was summoned to Tallahassee to serve as his executive secretary. Branch moved his wife and daughter Emily to Tallahassee and served until his brother's recovery.



*Branch Cone (1871-1948)*



# POLICE OFFICERS AND LAW MAKERS

## Abel James Roberts

Abel J. Roberts was born May 1st, 1872, the 9th child of Jonathan Knight Roberts and Mary Adeline Alford. He was 83 years old when he died on May 15, 1955. He had retired as Chief of Police in Jacksonville seven years prior to his death. He was a real old-timer. He served on the police force for more than half a century and was the Chief for better than 27 years. The white-haired, slight old man was always proud of the record he made coming up through the ranks. He boasted that he had never been "on the mat" before the Chief of City Commission, never late for role call, and never AWOL.

In an interview with a Journal reporter many years ago, Chief Roberts also bragged that he had never used a "billy" or his gun on a prisoner. "He says he has always treated a prisoner as he would like to be treated if he were the person under arrest and that few respond unfavorably to kindness", the Journal wrote.

Roberts was born May 1, 1872, in Bradford County near Lake Butler. He left the family farm for Jacksonville when he was 19. He first worked for the Traction Company and then drove a bread wagon before being appointed to the police department on September 28, 1893.

Ella Gertrude Hill Roberts, born June 3, 1873 in Sanderson, is the daughter of Thaddeus & Margaret Greene Hill. She married Abel Roberts on May 1st 1893 (his 21st birthday). She died October 2, 1940.

### Governor Fuller Warren



Governor Fuller Warren Political Speech Event 1952 at the northeast corner of SR 228, or 5th St, and McClenny Avenue, Baker County Marching Band playing under the direction of Mr. Beckham



Former County Judge D. L. Griffis born October 10, 1923, elected in 1972. Last Judge in Florida to serve without a law degree. Served 20 years.



# FISH FAMILY

*Written by their daughter, Glenda Fish Rewis.*



Our parents were Hugh Dorsey Fish, born February 19, 1918 (died March 6, 1992), and Thelma Lee Davis Fish, born August 27, 1918 (died March 11, 2011), in rural Baker County, Florida. They were high school sweethearts and members of the first graduating class of Taylor High School. They married on April 26, 1941, at the office of Judge Frank Dowling in McClenny, Florida. They had four children: Glenda Kay Fish (married James Edwin Rewis), Carol Lynn Fish (married W. D. Harrell), Veda Lauren Fish (married Gary Dopson), and Hugh Dorsey Fish, Jr. (married Barbara Newmans). They were survived by 9 grandchildren and numerous great, and great-great grandchildren.

This writing is not meant to be a genealogical record, but rather a memorial tribute to our parents, who they were, and how they shaped our lives. They began their married life with their love for one another and a profound faith in God. They bought their first land, a farm, from Daddy's Uncle Dewey Fish and moved into the old four room log house in the winter of 1947, with their three little girls and a boy on the way. He was born in February, 1948, and all of us were under six years old. There was no indoor plumbing, nor electricity.

The next five or six years were hard, but I have no memory of our parents complaining about all the hard work, remember instead how much they loved each other and we children. There was always laughter. They taught us patiently how to do our chores and we were so proud to be "helping Mama and Daddy". In the evenings Mama would read Bible stories to us. Moses in the bullrushes, Daniel in the lion's den, and the Baby Jesus were as real to us as our family. Sometimes in the summer, we would sit out on the porch waiting for the house to cool down enough to sleep and Mama would sing to us all the old hymns she and Daddy learned in their childhood. Daddy said that was as close to heaven as a man could be on earth. He particularly enjoyed Mama playing the harmonica. She played by ear and could play any song you could sing. She played that harmonica until she passed away at age 92. She couldn't remember a lot of things by that time, but if you put that "mouth harp" in her hands, she would play whatever you wanted to hear.



*Hugh Dorsey Fish  
21 Years Old*



*Thelma Lee Davis Fish  
21 Years Old*

One of our most precious memories is of Christmas Eve. We would all get our baths and get our night clothes on, and then we'd gather on a quilt pallet in front of the fireplace and either Daddy or Mama would read the story of Jesus' birth to us from the Bible. We learned the true meaning of Christmas at Mama and Daddy's knees when we were but babes ourselves.

Daddy was a patient, quiet man. He loved animals and planting things. He planted trees around the house for the shade, their fruit, and to "tie us to the place". He got a book and taught himself to graft trees and flowering shrubs. Mama always had to have flowers growing and would start them from cuttings she got from neighbors and friends. She would always share her cuttings with others to spread the flowers around. They both had "green thumbs" and at one time even had a small commercial nursery on the farm. Daddy always said to us, "Take care of the land and the land will take care of you". In the mid fifties, they purchased some adjoining land and a little country store with living quarters in the back. Crop prices were low, so Daddy got a job driving a truck for extra money. We rented out the old log house and Mama ran the store. Again, we all helped, whether it be stocking shelves, sweeping, pumping gas for customers, or farm chores. Daddy told us to think of our family as a business, the Dor-Thel Corporation (From Dorsey and Thelma), and each of us as partners who could and did do whatever job was necessary. With Daddy working away from home, he couldn't farm row crops, so they put most of the land to pasture for raising cows and timber land.



# {AS TOLD BY THEIR CHILDREN}



*First Graduating Senior Class at Taylor High School 1938, not in order, Sanada Altman, Amy Crawford, Thelma Davis, Dorsey Fish, Willa Johns, Roby Reynolds, Adeline Williams, & Nita Yarbrough*



Mama and Daddy always insisted we all sit down together for meals. Sometimes we would all be at the table for an hour or two, because that was also our “Family Talking Time”. Even though we were children, our parents felt we had enough sense to discuss everything in the world about us. Daddy would sometime read newspaper articles to us and ask us what we thought about them. We discussed politics, our financial condition, school, religion, etc. You name it and it was discussed sometime at the dinner table. It was always stressed to us that each of us could be anything we wanted to be if we worked hard, studied hard, treated others as we wanted to be treated and never left the Lord out of our lives. They never made a difference in us as to whether we were male or female. Daddy advised that we girls be careful to marry a man we could always walk beside of and not a step behind.

As children, if we got tired, Daddy carried us. If we got sick, Mama nursed us. She had a real gift for caring for the sick and most of the time she could conquer whatever bug we had. Lots of camphor oil, warm blankets, and homemade soup was involved. The smell of camphor, to this day, evokes memories of Mama’s warm arms and the rocking chair in front of the fire.

Mama loved to write poems and short stories, and she also wrote the “Grandpa Bailey” column for the Baker County Press. Daddy became a Director on the Board at the Citizens Bank in McClenny and immediately signed up for some college classes in banking regulations and laws. He said he didn’t want to be just a “chair filler” at the bank and he needed to learn the rules. He made A’s in all those courses, and due to our “Family Talking Time”, the rest of us might have passed the tests, too.

Mama was always talented at sewing. She could look at a picture of a dress in the Sears & Roebuck catalog, and using newspaper, draw and cut out a pattern to fit whichever of us she was sewing for. She taught us to sew on her old foot-pedal Singer sewing machine, starting us out on clothes for our dolls. This paid off, because by the time we were old enough to work in the tobacco harvest, we earned enough to buy fabric and notions and made our own school dresses, skirts, and blouses.

For some years, our parents also raised pure bred Quarter Horses. That was one of their enterprises that we all enjoyed working at. Carol and Glenda became quite good riders and did some barrel racing in their younger days.

About the time we girls were away at college and “marrying off” and our brother, Hugh, was in the U. S. Airforce, Mama decided to take up painting. She was mostly self-taught, although she did take a few lessons. She painted oils and acrylics of local waterways, swamps, landscapes, and various old-timey homes. One of her paintings of the Okefenoke Swamp hangs in the House Office Building in Washington, D.C., near what was once the office of Florida Congressman, Don Fuqua. I remember people asking her why the river water and swamp water was always brown in her paintings and she would explain how the tannic acid from the cypress trees colored the water. She made a fair amount of money from her paintings, as people began to seek her out to paint their old family homes, but it was never about the money for Mama. Each completed painting was almost like another child she had raised.

Mama passed her artistic talent on to her children and grandchildren. Glenda’s medium is watercolors. Carol is a talented photographer, whose work has appeared in publications. Veda can paint, too, but her love is teaching others art. She taught art to countless children for over 30 years. Hugh carves in wood and bone and does beautiful work. His carved gunstocks are much sought after. His largest work was a full size Jesus in The Garden. Two of the greatgrandchildren have won awards with their art.

One of the high points in Daddy’s life was when he was ordained as a Deacon in our church, Glen St. Mary Baptist





*These are some of the paintings that Mama did.*



Church. He said there were very few things in a man's life that could come close to serving the Lord in that capacity. He put it right up there with his marriage vows to Mama and the feeling of holding each of us, as newborns, in his arms. Another honor Daddy was proud of was being elected as Master of his Masonic Lodge at Sanderson, Florida.

In our parents' later years, they both had some serious health problems and worried that they couldn't make a living from the land as they had in the past. They came up with the idea of clearing the land and developing an airport community. With the help of their son, Hugh (who had BS in Civil Engineering), they did just that. Daddy was right; he had spent his life looking after the land and now the land, through the airport sales, took care of them until their deaths.

We, their four children, have all gone on to know the value of a good marriage, and the joys of our own families. Glenda has retired after being an Official Court Reporter in the Third Judicial Circuit and being Manager/Bookkeeper in a Law Practice. She lives in Live Oak, Florida, and is the only one of us who didn't return to live and raise our families in Baker County. Carol retired from the phone company in McClenny, Florida, Veda retired from the Baker County School System after over 30 years as an art teacher, and Hugh is an Attorney-at-Law in McClenny, Florida. Our parents were a blessing from God in each of our lives.

We have all continued to follow the teachings of Mama and Daddy. We have kept the Lord in our lives, we have worked hard and we have always wanted Mama and Daddy to be proud of us.

--written by Glenda Rewis



*L-R:  
Carol, Glenda, Veda, Hugh  
and son, Jonathan at Mama  
and Daddy's 50th Wedding  
Anniversary 1991*



# ABIGALE STEPHENS COOK

*"Abbie"*

Art was her hobby and she painted from real life experiences. In 1940 Abbie Cook traded her wood burning solid iron cook stove for a new electric range.

"I sure wish I had it back. That wood stove cooked the best biscuits and cornbread you've ever tasted," she once said. "Today's cornbread will never taste the same as that we used to make in the old days. It takes a water mill grinding the corn slow and easy to produce good meal. That stuff you get from the grocery shelf is older than I am."

*-- Abbie Stephens Cook*



Fount Cook was an operational manager for a turpentine company from Alabama. He and Abbie married in 1911 and moved to Baker County in 1929. Abbie is the mother of Wilma Cook Morris.



*Abbie's depression painting*



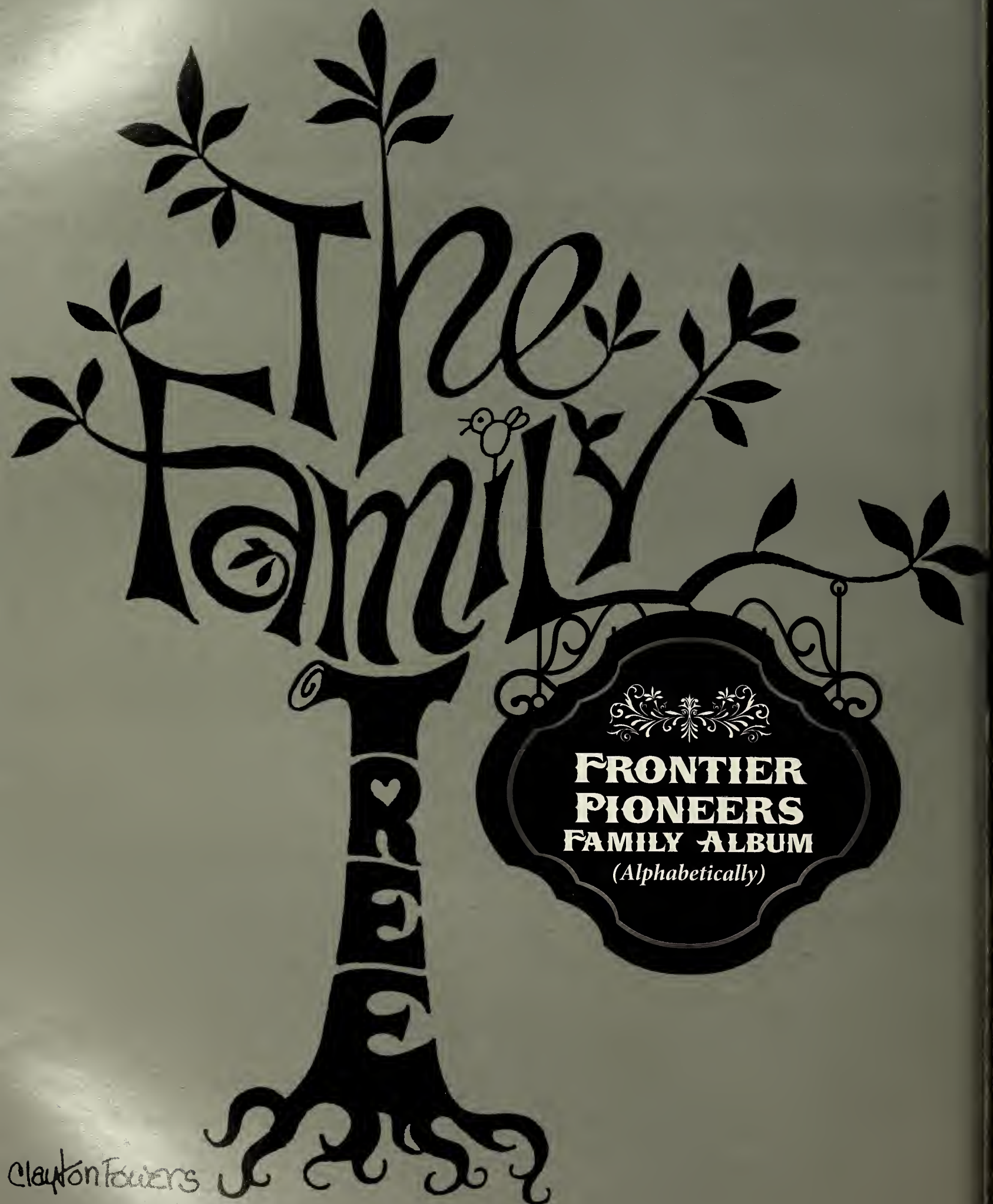
*Abbie's quilting party with friends*



"We'd heard dad talk about these things that went without a horse. Our house was off the main road, but we could hear the car when it passed by. After it went by we would all run down the road to see what kind of tracks it made. We didn't want to go near it. The horses would run away when one came near them."

*-- Abbie Stephens Cook*









*Sarah Rowe Alford (c. 1865)*



*Lil & Anna Alford  
daughters of Sarah "Sake" Rowe  
Alford & Robert "Rob" Hicks*



*Daniel & Lillian Alford McDonald*

# ALFORD



*Lizzie Alford Brannen (1860), Dossie  
Mae (Brannen) Raulerson (1915)*



*Eliza M. Alford Williams*



*Liza Alford Williams*



# ALTMAN



*Lenora Altman Harvey & Mildred Jean (1902-1937)  
daughter of Caroline Davis Altman*



*Mildred Jean Harvey, Caroline & Edith Altman*

*Edith, Fannie & Caroline Altman*







# ALVAREZ

*Sara Jane, born 15 Feb 1814, was first born child of Joseph "Jose" Alvarez and Buana Barber. Sara Jane married Thomas Dillaberry (Tomas de la Barre born 25 Dec 1802) a native of Lisbon, Portugal. They married November 14, 1830, and they were the parents of Joseph T. Dillaberry.*







*Alexis M. Andreu (1818-1886) & wife  
Lucinda McKinney (1832-1899)  
son of Juan Andreu & Maria Geronima  
Mabrumati - buried McKinney  
cemetery Bradford Co, Florida  
Young girl probably Victoria Octavia  
1868-1955*



*Andreu Sisters  
Daughters of Alexis & Carolyn (Wynn) Andreu*



*N.E. & Vasco  
Andreu*

**ANDREU**



*Mary Ann Acosta Andreu*

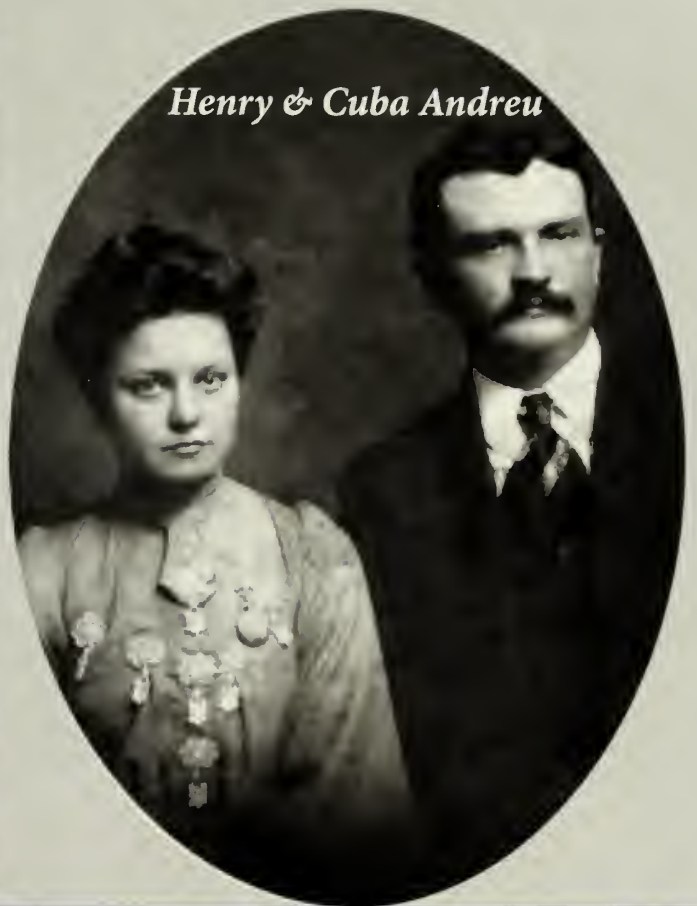


*Vasco Andreu*





*Newton Andreu*



*Henry & Cuba Andreu*

# ANDREU



*Mary Carman & Mildred  
Andreu, daughters of  
Mary Anne & Vasco*



*Mary Anne Acosta & Vasco Andreu*



# SOME OF THE FIRST BARBER MEN IN BAKER COUNTY



George Washington Barber  
son of Isaiah and Elizabeth (nee  
Thompson) Barber. He was the father of  
John Benjamin Barber who married Alice  
Chesser and was the progenitor of the  
Palatka Barbers



Isaac J. Barber (1836-1870)  
Son of Moses Edward and Maria  
Leah Barber - husband of Harriett  
Geiger of Nassau Co. - removed  
to central Florida - CS Army vet.  
- murdered by a kangaroo court  
type posse in 1870 - The posse  
then captured & murdered Isaac's  
brother Moses (Moses Edward or  
"Little Mose" not Moses B. F. as has  
been so often erroneously reported)



James Edward "Big Ed" Barber  
(1840-1867) son of Moses and Leah,  
husband of Victoria Eugenie  
Thompson



George Isaiah "Buddy" Barber  
1878-1902  
killed by "Mattox Boys"



Joseph H. Barber (1860-)  
Born in Olustee, FL, the son of Isaac J. Barber & Harriet  
Geiger, grandson of Moses Edward. Joe went to central  
Florida with his father and mother and remained there.  
His father, Isaac, was the first Barber murdered by the  
Mizell's in 1870. Husband of Mary Eliza White (1868-  
1948) father of Hattie Pearl Barber Fertic, Isaac Barber,  
May Clyde Barber Fertic & Thomas Henry Barber



James Monroe Barber



John Benjamin Barber (1878-)  
Son of Isaiah & Elizabeth (nee  
Thompson) Barber; was the City  
of McClenmy's first Marshal  
husband of (1) Alice Charity  
Chesser (2) Ida Dixon



Edward J. Barber



# BARBER



**Elizabeth Ann Thompson Barber (1841-1919)**  
 Daughter of Moses and Mary (nee Wells) Williams Thompson wife of Isaiah Barber. She purchased the Hotel McClenny after the yellow fever epidemic & operated it until her death. She is reputed to have been the first civilian on the battle field at Ocean Pond.

## William Jasper & Thomas Otis Barber

"Jasper" the orphan son of William "Will" Barber (who was killed by Indians), brother of "Mose", & reared by Moses Barber. He moved to the present Dixie county area with Moses' sons, Archibald and Samuel Jeremiah. The children in the photograph are his grandchildren; Jasper Otis & Thetis (girl).



**Victoria Eugenie Regina Thompson Barber Williams**  
 daughter of Moses and Mary (nee Wells) Williams Thompson, born in SC wife of (1) James Edward Barber (2) Samuel Neil Williams, Jr.

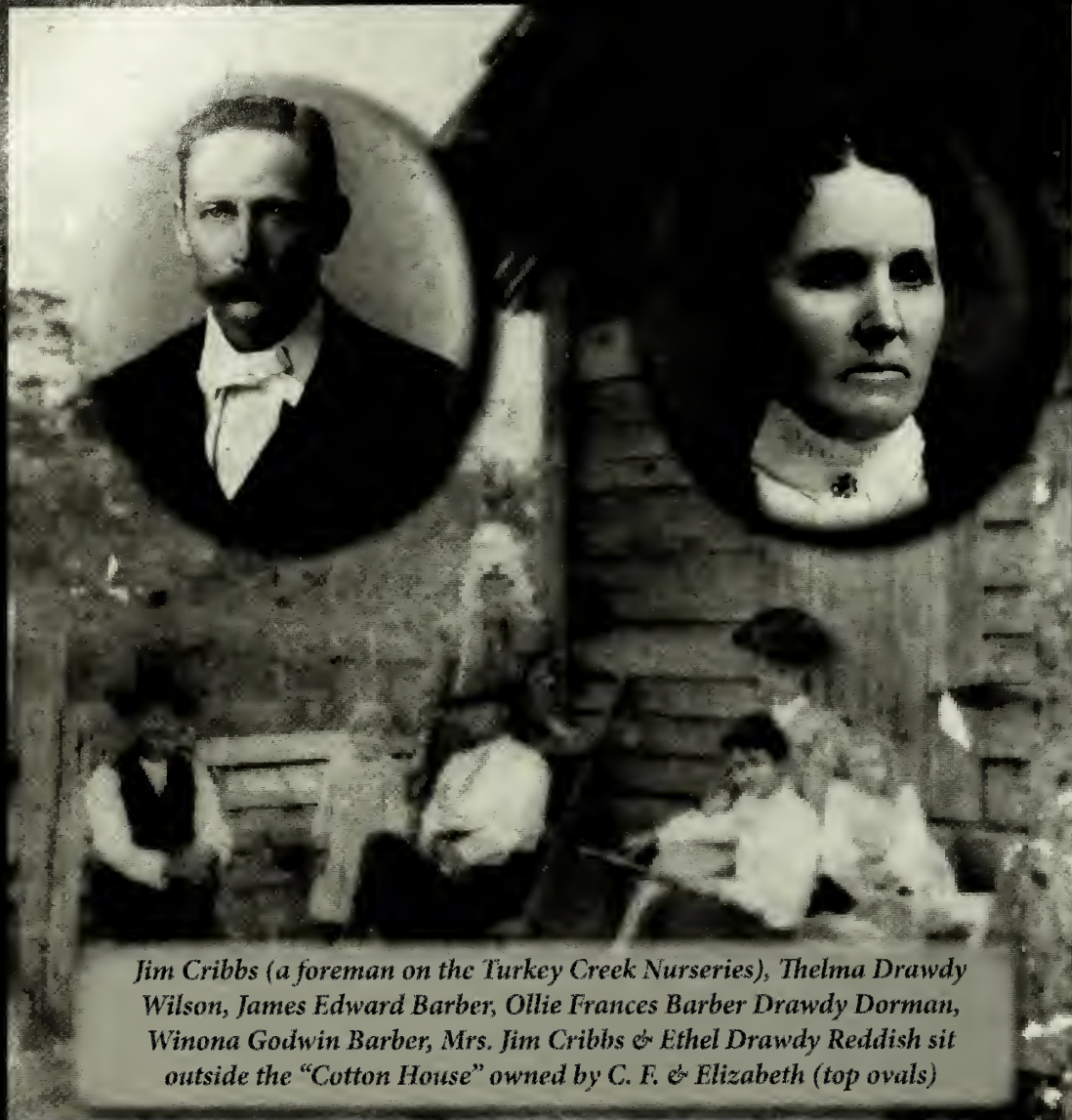
## Mother Vic



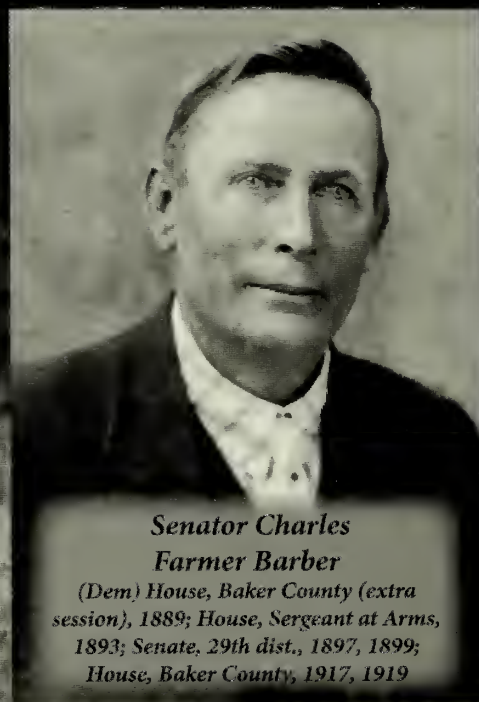
**Victoria Eugenie Regina (Thompson) Barber Williams**

Known as Mother Vic to her descendents and as Victorie (Victor' ie) to her parents and siblings and as Auntie to her nieces and nephews. She was widowed in 1868, while living in Baldwin where her husband had been stationed as chief cattle driver for his father. She was left with two small children. She homesteaded a farm north of McClenny on the old Barber plantation property and lived there until her married son Charley moved into Darbyville (McClenny) in 1882. This photo was taken in 1919, just before her death due to the Spanish flu.





*Jim Cribbs (a foreman on the Turkey Creek Nurseries), Thelma Drawdy Wilson, James Edward Barber, Ollie Frances Barber Drawdy Dorman, Winona Godwin Barber, Mrs. Jim Cribbs & Ethel Drawdy Reddish sit outside the "Cotton House" owned by C. F. & Elizabeth (top ovals)*



**Senator Charles  
Farmer Barber**  
(Dem.) House, Baker County (extra session), 1889; House, Sergeant at Arms, 1893; Senate, 29th dist., 1897, 1899; House, Baker County, 1917, 1919



*(right) C. F. & Mary Elizabeth "Molly" (Rowe) Barber on their wedding day, 1 April, 1880*



*Barber House circa 1900*



*Barber House circa 2007  
controlled burn.*

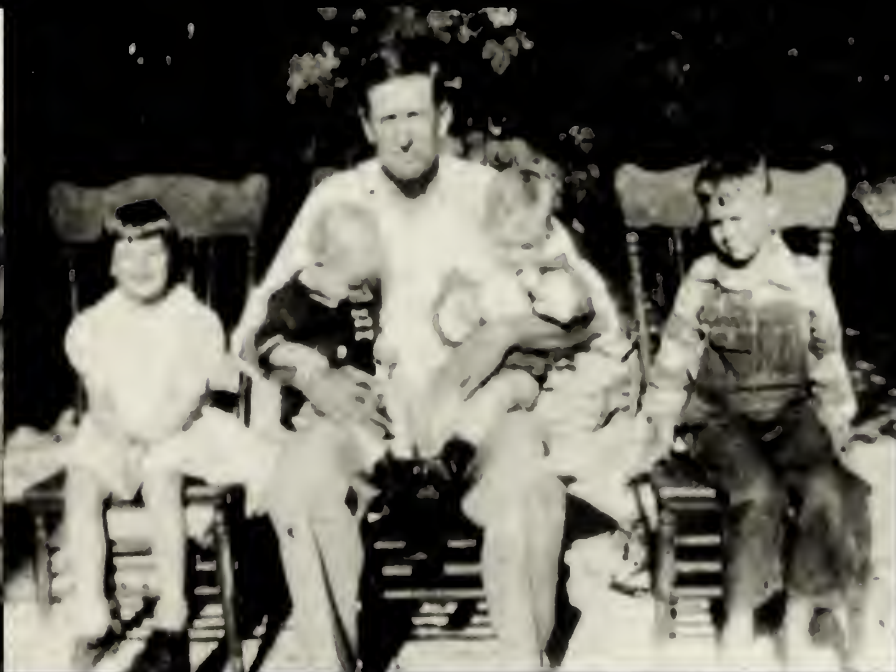




C. M. Barber

## CHARLES MONROE BARBER

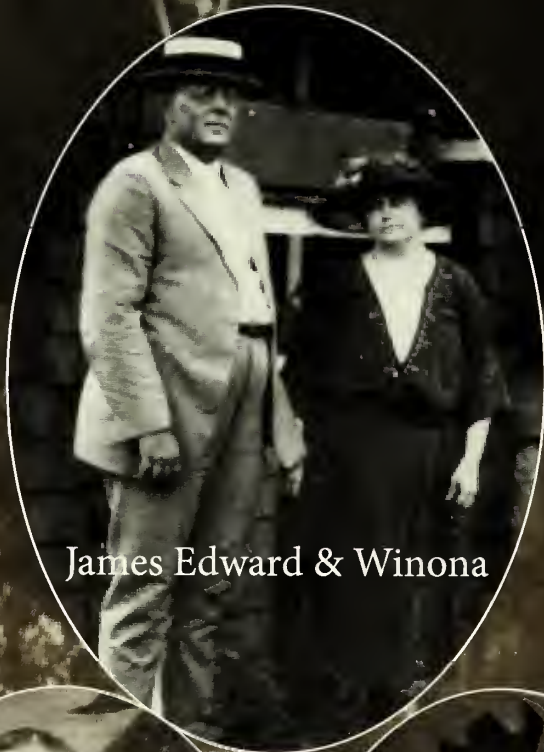
(above) Turkey Creek Nursery 1908, (lower left) C. M. Barber 1975 (oval), wife Pearl Inez Barber, (lower right) L-R: Mildred (Barber) Johnson, Stacy Rowe Barber, Charles Monroe Barber, William Eugene "Gene" Barber, Joe Bryant Barber. Photo made 1936 in the front yard of the C. M. Barber home.





# JAMES EDWARD BARBER

1882-1959, son of C. F. Barber  
Husband of Winona Godwin married 21 Dec. 1908



James Edward & Winona



Unknown

Winona Godwin  
Barber



James Edward



Winona Godwin



# BARBER CHILDREN



**Florida Pauline Barber  
David Knapp (1861-)**  
daughter of James Edward and  
Victoria (nee Thompson) Barber  
wife of (1) Leon David, a Jewish  
gentleman from Paris, France (2)  
David Knapp, a German immi-  
grant



**James Edward, Mary Magda-  
lene, Ollie Frances & Charles  
Monroe Barber**



**Florida, Mary Leah Rose & C. F. Barber 1880**



**Ollie Frances Barber  
c. 1900**  
1881-1958 daughter of  
C.F. Barber wife of Neal  
D. Drawdy later mar-  
ried Frank Dorman



**John Williams Barber 1895**



**George Carmeta & George  
Curtis Barber**  
Son and daughter of Thomas McDuffy  
and Madonna (nee Swain) Barber



**J.W., C. F. & Mary Virginia Barber**  
Children of John W. "Will" &  
Susie Clayton Barber



**Evelyn Nell Harwick**  
(baby in the dress to the left)  
great granddaughter of Mo-  
ses Barber - mother to Anne  
Harwick who wrote  
"Possum Trot"



**Joe & Mildred Barber 1936**



**J.W. "Bill" Barber**



**Pearle Chesser Barber**



**George Curtis Barber**



**C. F. Barber 1941**



**George F. Barber 1943  
1920-1965**



**William Monroe "Dub" Barber**





# BARNES

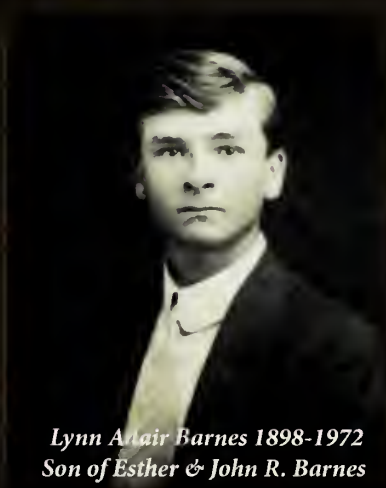
*John Rowland Barnes 1841-1917 & Kazen (dog). John, a Baker County School Teacher & County Commissioner is the son of Dr. John Sanders Rowland of Robeson Co., NC.*



# BARNES



Middleton H. Barnes 1895-1936  
Son of John R. & Esther Barnes



Lynn Alair Barnes 1898-1972  
Son of Esther & John R. Barnes



Esther Williams  
Barnes 1865-1946,  
wife of John Ro-  
land Barnes



To the right  
in the big bonnett  
Thelma Barnes daughter  
of Mid Barnes  
& Thelma Lyons Barnes  
and below on the truck  
is another daughter of  
Mid and Thelma  
Lorraine Barnes  
b. ca. 1920



Lynn & Effie Thrift Barnes



Roma daughter  
of Esther & J. R.  
Barnes, Alvie,  
Al Jr, Clyde Rhoden



Lynn Barnes & Russie Thrift Garage  
Charlie Driggers by truck, Russie Thrift & Lynn Barnes by his car



# BARNES



*Elmer & Elgin  
Barnes 1930*



*Elmer L. Barnes WW II*



*Barbara Jean & Elgin Barnes*



*Guitar Music Class 1938-1939  
L-R: Seleta White, Beulah Mae Yarbrough,  
Sarah Lee Crawford, Hazel Yarbrough, Elgin  
Barnes, Hazel Harris, Danna Thompson*



*Dorothy Lee Mobley  
wife of Elgin Barnes*



*Dorothy, Elgin & Greg Barnes 1949*



*Elmer & Hazel Barnes WWII*



# BAIR



*Rosa Bair Worley, Charles Bair, Edith Bair*



*Alma Rowe & Rose Bair Worley born to Samuel Bair and Harriet Barber. Rosa Rose married Clement Clem Worley and had two children*

# B R O W N



*Louise Brown & Leon Shaw*

*To the left is John Brown who purchased the site of the Battle of Ocean Pond & established a farm there. He was the husband of Elizabeth Shaw, daughter of Hezekiah/ His son, Judge "Singer" Brown, was the first to merchandise sewing machines in the area.*





*Bill Bennett (with Suspenders) and brother Tom Bennett, with horse, Anna is the wife of William "Bill" Bennett. Bill and Tom are the sons of John Calvin Bennett and Lucretia Kersey*

# BENNETT



*William Daniel Bennett as Young Man*

*To the top right is William Daniel Bennett & brother Thomas B. Bennett and to the bottom right is William Daniel Bennett & brother John Calvin Bennett, Jr.*

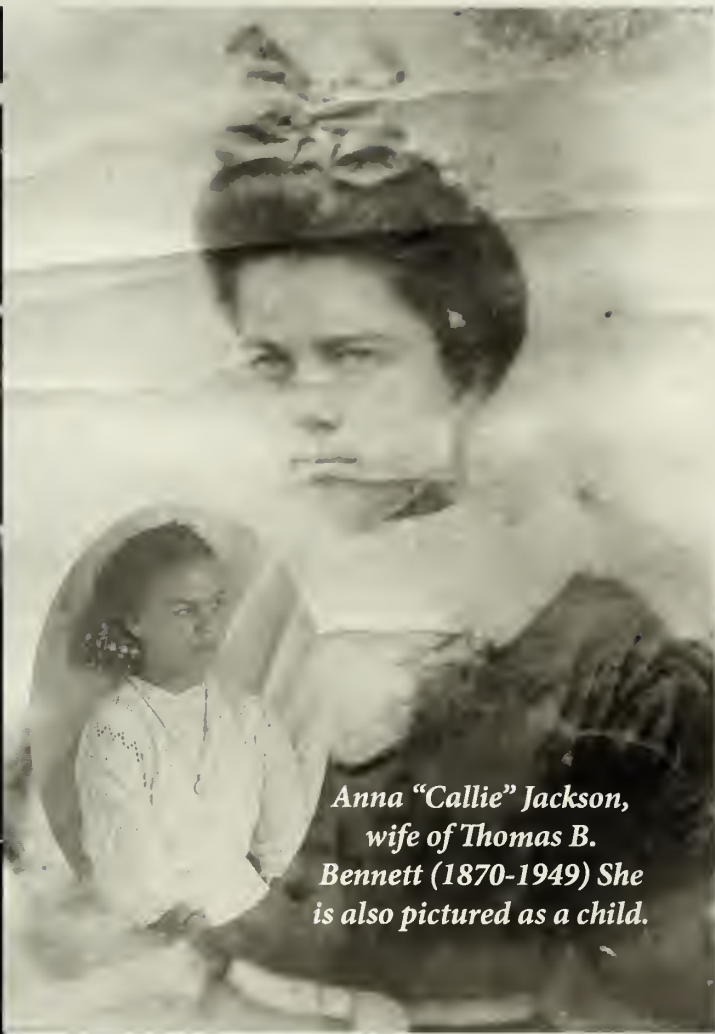


*William "Bill" Bennett and three of his daughters. From left to right, Ethel Bennett Osteen, Mae Bennett Sullivan and toddler Pearl Bennett Walker. Children of Bill's first wife Emmaline Coy Pringle Bennett. The couple also had an infant baby named Ray Nell Bennett, not shown. The toddler wandered onto the railroad track. When her mother ran to rescue her, she was able to throw the toddler clear of the train, but was hit and killed herself. The older children tried to care for the nursing infant while their dad worked, but the child soon died. Emmaline's first cousin, Ada Van Cora Pringle married Bill Feb. 16, 1911. The couple had four sons, William, Jr., Dink, Fred and Avery. Their two daughters were Tommie and Loyce.*





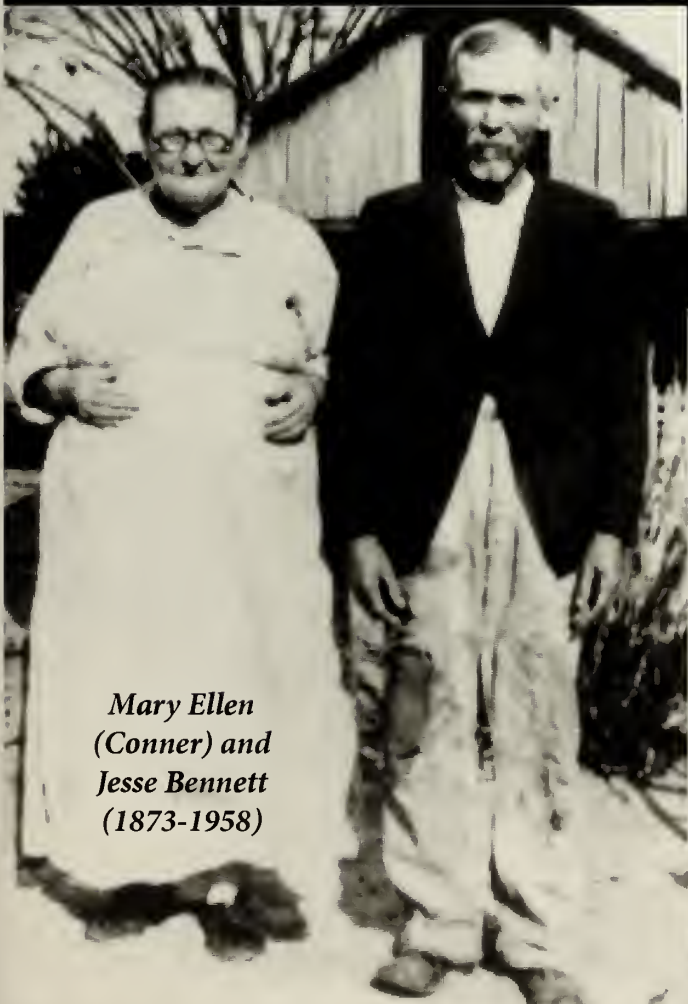
*Burton Calvin Crews (1852-1934) and Georgia Ann Bennett Crews. Burton is the son of Calvin McDonald Crews and Sarah Jane Stokes. Georgia Ann is the daughter of John Calvin Bennett and Lucretia Lucinda Kersey.*



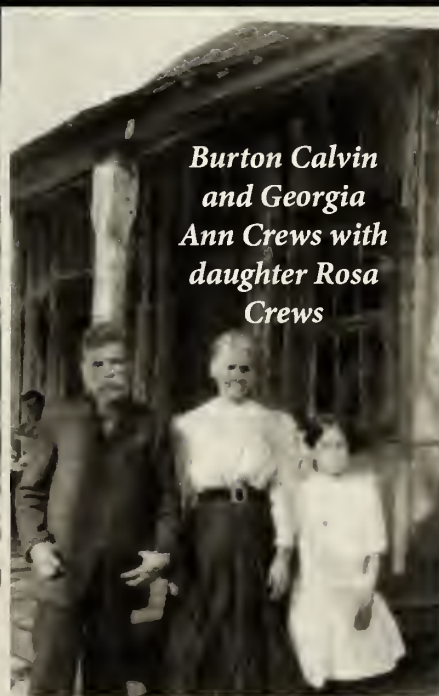
*Anna "Callie" Jackson, wife of Thomas B. Bennett (1870-1949) She is also pictured as a child.*

# BENNETT

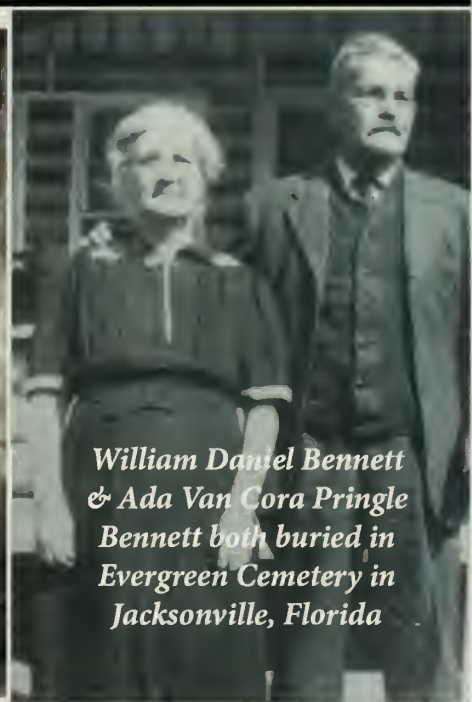
## AND RELATED FAMILIES



*Mary Ellen (Conner) and Jesse Bennett (1873-1958)*



*Burton Calvin and Georgia Ann Crews with daughter Rosa Crews*



*William Daniel Bennett & Ada Van Cora Pringle Bennett both buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida*





*Benjamin Brannen was born in Lake Butler, Bradford, Florida, on 29 Apr 1839. Benjamin married Temperance Addison born 12 May 1841, and had 11 children. Their children were Henry Brannen 1861, Susan T Brannen 1862-1918, William B Brannen 1867, Julia Brannen 1869, Narcis Brannen 1870, Rebecca Brannen 1871, Candacy Brannen 1873, Steven W Brannen 1876, James F Brannen 1879, Mary Brannen 1880, Jesse Brannen 1882.*

*Benjamin passed away on 16 Dec 1913, and she died 2 Mar 1901. They are both buried in Swift Creek Cemetery in Union County, Florida.*



*Seated Lula Jane Brannen Alford (1872-1959) and Rev. Thomas Jefferson Alford (1869-1952)*

**B  
R  
A  
N  
N  
E  
N**

*James Westly Brannen (1844-1926) and Nancy Keen Brannen (1845-1920). Both are buried in Swift Creek Cemetery in Union County, Florida. He was the son of John Milledge Brannen born 08 Jan 1809, and Eliza Bonnell Brannen, born in 1810. His parents were married in 1832, in Columbia County, Florida, and are buried in Prospect Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, White Springs, Florida.*





# BRANNEN



*Mary Mayhalia Brannen (1881-1948) and Joseph "Joe" J. Brannen (1882-1946), parents of R. V. Brannen Green (1915 - 2002). Their tombstone is pictured below and is located in the Swift Creek Cemetery.*



*Lizzie Brannen Johns (1917-1985) wife of Marvin William Johns, daughter of Lacy (Lace) Brannen and Annie Belle Beasley*





*Lizzie Rowe Bessent was born January 08, 1862, to Robert Rowe and Lavilla Pendarvius Rowe. She married James Osbourne Bessent on December 28, 1882, in Baker Co., son of James Bessent and Hannah Hines Tison.*

*Lizzie and James had eight children. They were Bessie Bessent, born November 04, 1883, Esther Bessent, born 1900, James Bessent, Callas Bessent, born 1887, Clarence Bessent born July 31, 1880, and died on November 21, 1916, in Putnam Co., FL, Riety Bessent, 1893, Oscar James Bessent born August 25, 1894, in McClenny, FL, died February 9, 1942, and Nellie Bessent, 1897. Lizzie died September 26, 1897. Lizzie died September 26, 1939 in Baker Co., FL.*



*Clarence & Oscar Bessent sons of James Osbourne Bessent and Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Rowe Bessent*



*Oscar James Bessent born August 25, 1894 died on 9 Feb 1942 and buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in McClenny, Florida*



*In the oval on the left is Maime Bessent, grand daughter of Ed Rowe. On the right is a Bessent girl with only identification as Miss Bessent.*

# BESSENT





*John Burnett II (1841-1922) Left is daughter Janie B. Alderman (1884-1964) and right is Winnie Burnett (1877-1964)  
Sanderson residents*



*John Burnett III (1872-1953) son of  
John and Jane Dunaway Burnett*

# BURNETT



*Sanderson Home of John Burnett III*



*John Burnett III (1872-1953) and Mittie Davis  
Burnett (1882-1968)*



*Johnnie Burnett (1907-1990) and wife Roxie Prevatt (1912-1993) Johnnie and Roxie Prevatt Burnett lived in Sanderson until they moved to McClenny in 1932. He won the election for Baker County Clerk of Court and served from 1932 until 1940. He and Roxie owned and operated the Western Auto Store on McClenny Avenue for 38 ½ years before retiring. Both were county pioneers. Johnnie was one of ten children born to John and Mittie Davis Burnett and Roxie was one of 11 children born to Jim and Lovie Starling Prevatt, third generation county pioneers.*



# **BURNS** *and related families*



*James M. Burnsed (1817-1882)  
buried Cedar Creek Cemetery,  
husband of 1st Eliza Moates,  
2nd Julia Ann Harris Starling.*

*Father of John E, James W, Simeon,  
Margaret, Elizabeth, Susan, William, Eliza  
Mary, Martha, Easter Ann (Fannie) &  
George Gilbert.*



*Abner Jackson (1862-1920) & Easter Ann  
"Fannie" (Burnsed) Sweat (1865-1941).  
Son of Freeman Sweat & Sarah Crews,  
daughter of James M. Burnsed*

*& Eliza Moates. Children: Levada born  
1885, Bertie born Nov. 1887, Larney/Lonnie  
born about 1892, Effie born 1895. There was  
another child not in the picture, James 1899.*



*Easter Ann "Fannie"  
(Burnsed) Sweat (1865-1941)*



*Julia Ann Harris Starling Burnsed  
born in Thomas Co., GA, in 1843,  
1st wife of Benjamin James Starling in 1858  
2nd wife of James M. Burnsed  
Mother of George Gilbert Burnsed*



*Burnsed Block House after being abandoned in the 1970s*





*George Gilbert Burnsed & Easter Raulerson Burnsed,  
daughter of Joseph Peter Raulerson & Laura Butler*



*Willie Burnsed (1904-1974) & Alice Mae Griffin Burnsed  
Son of George Gilbert Burnsed & Easter Raulerson Burnsed.  
Daughter of Warren Griffin & Millie Boykin Griffin. Born  
Irwin County, GA.*



*George Gilbert Burnsed (1883-1949),  
age 16, taken at Glen St Mary, FL,  
Son of James M. Burnsed & Julia Starling*

# **BURNSED** *and related families*





*Levy H. Carter (1844-1893), CSA  
Husband of Margaret Ann Knowles*



*Ivy Carter Family*



*Hog Killing Time, 1918  
Ivey Carter, I CO Carter, Martha Carter, Edna  
Carter, Mrs. Carter*



*Alice Carter, Elton & Virgil Rhoden (sons  
of Arnold and Alma (Carter) Rhoden)*



*John Carter home*



*Ivy Carter Place 1970*

# CARTER



# CHESSER



*William "Bill" Marten Chesser (1848-1902)  
Son of William Thomas Chesser & Mary  
Elinor Kirby*



*Zilphia Hicks Chesser (1848-1929)  
Wife of William Marten Chesser*

*Zilphia Hicks  
Chesser with grand  
children: Pearl,  
Maude, Mary & Jr.  
Chesser*



*Wiley Thomas "Snide" Chesser, Sr. on his  
wedding day with his Father-in-law,  
Jackson H. "Jack" Johnson*



*Wiley T. Chesser, Jr.  
(1919-1991)*



*"Snide" & "Maggie"  
Chesser with children  
Maude & Mary*



# COBB



*William Colonel Cobb  
2/17/1825 - 4/1/1916*

William Colonel Cobb (2/17/1825 - 4/1/1916), born in Georgia February 17, 1825, came to Florida in 1844 as an Indian fighter. He returned to Georgia where he married Sarah Ellen Cowart, born May 14, 1829, the daughter of Abel "Abe" Cowart and Elizabeth Collins. He returned to live in Florida about 1850, where they settled north of Sanderson (then Columbia County). He served in the Civil War and was listed among the largest taxpayers in the county in 1887, the first year state and county taxes were collected. Their first born son, Lewis C. Cobb, was born in Baker County, March 21, 1851, and taught school



*Lewis C. Cobb  
3/21/1851 - 7/20/1923*

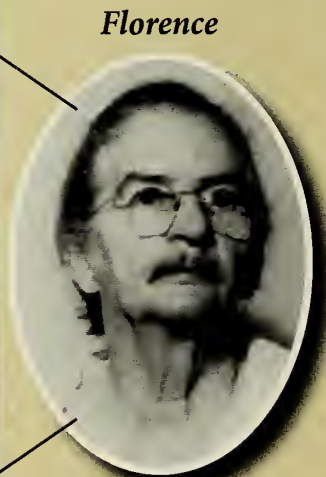
at Taylor boarding in the home of the Gordon S. Taylor family. On October 24, 1878, Lewis married Sinderella Matilda Taylor, Gordon's 16 year old daughter who was one of his students.



*Richard Owen Cobb, (1883-1938) son of  
Lewis husband to Florence*



*Florence Rhoda Dyal (1862-1962) married Richard Owen Cobb,  
(1883-1938) son of Lewis and Sinderella in 1904.*



*Florence*

*Many generations  
of the Cobb pioneers  
reared their families  
in the Olustee and  
Sanderson areas.*



# COBB



Richard Owen Cobb married Florence Rhoda Dyal and had 7 children: Lewis Cedric (born Jan 7, 1905 married Mabel Mann, daughter of Joe Mann); Owen Celester Cobb (born Feb. 8, 1907 married Grace Mann, daughter of Joe Mann); William Colonel Cobb, named after his grand-father, (born February 8, 1908 married 1st Edna Saphrett, 2nd Elsie Mae Cason, daughter of W. H. Cason); Thelma Cobb (born March 18, 1909 married 1st Walter Crowley, 2nd Alton H. Layman, 3rd James E. Garrison); Daniel Charlie Cobb (born April 24, 1919 married Lillie Ethel Bennett, daughter of Augusta Lee Bennett); Freida Inez Cobb (born October 23, 1922 married Enoch D. Dryden, son of Enoch E. Dryden); Martha Lee Cobb (born October 22, 1927, married 1st Harold Robert Rhoden son of Raiford Rhoden, 2nd Ashley Weeks)

Pictured to the left is Florence, Colonel, Celester, Thelma and Cedric



Thelma Cobb, daughter of Richard Owen and Florence Dyal Cobb

# CROWLEY



Thelma Cobb, wife of Walter Crowley



Walter Crowley, husband of Thelma Cobb



On the left is Laverne Crowley Jeffers and little girl is Angie Crowley Gordon (sisters), daughters of Thelma and Walter Crowley



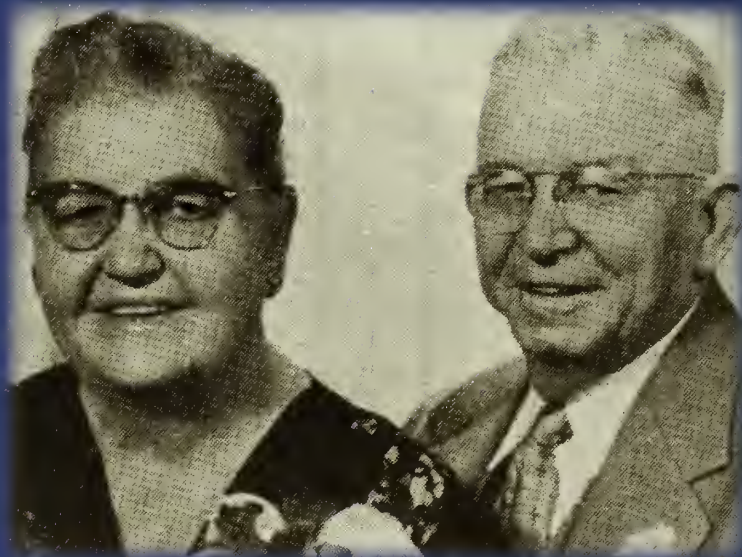
# COMBS



*Boss  
Combs &  
Martha  
Dowling  
Combs*



*James Combs 1846-1921 & Family  
He is older man with children standing in front of him*



*Joseph Eddie Combs 1886-1959 & Maggie Knabb 1890-1978, son of Boss & Martha Combs, daughter of T.J. Knabb & Sarah Brown Knabb*

*Lucius  
& Erie  
Combs, of  
Sanderson  
parents  
of 12  
children*



*Nettie Combs Wilson & son Lynn Wilson*



*Betty Combs Thrift  
Wife of Spencer, and daughter of  
Isaiah and Ellen Harvey Combs*



*George Henry Combs &  
wife Maggie Thompson*



# COMBS



*Children of Isaiah "Hice" and Ellen (nee Harvey) Combs*

*Back row, L-R: Julian Combs, Gussie Combs Smith, Carrie Combs Braddock, Arthur Combs, Vessie Combs Thrift, Betty Combs Thrift, Ivy Combs, Della Combs Fordham, Frank Combs. Front row, L-R: George Combs (nephew of Hice and Ellen and reared by them), Irving Combs, Lila Combs Gainey, Annie Combs Higganbotham, Nettie Combs Wilson, Lola Combs Croft (Hice and Ellen Combs family reunion at Mt. Zion Cong. Methodist Church)*



*George, Ivy, Irving, Julian & Frank Combs*



# COLEMAN



*Russell Isaiah Coleman*  
Son of Isaiah G. & Margaret M.



*Lillie Coleman*  
Glen St. Mary



*Zillie Coleman*  
Glen St. Mary

*Twin Sisters*

# COOK

*Malissa Boyd Cook,*  
*widow of Wilson Cook*  
*- b. 01 Dec 1835, d. 15*  
*Dec 1908 (lower right)*  
*Children: Sarah Cook*  
*Johnson - b. 12 Jan*  
*1859, d. 04 Aug 1930*  
*(upper right) Clemen-*  
*tine Cook Stafford - b.*  
*18 Aug 1860, d. 26 Sep*  
*1909 (upper left)*  
*Malinda Cook Richard-*  
*son - b. 01 Dec 1861, d.*  
*03 Sep 1927 (lower left)*





# CORBETT~PADGETT



*Padgett home still standing at corner of Hwy 90 & 121*

*L-R Carmeta Corbett, Charles C. Corbett, Cecil Corbett, Ida Mae Matthews (Padgett), Ida Estelle Corbett (Matthews) & Edweena Corbett*



*Mittie Griffin Corbett  
Born Feb. 15, 1870  
Died Oct. 21, 1935  
Married to James R Corbett  
(1858 - 1927)*

## *Corbett - Padgett Home*

*L-R: Edweena Corbett Allbritton, Ida Estelle Matthews Corbett, Frank Maynard Matthews (children of C.C. & Ida), Ida Mae Matthews Padgett  
Originally built by John R. McClenney ca. 1885*





*Harland & Mary Estelle Padgett  
Children of Barney & Ida Mae  
(Mathews) Padgett, grandchildren of  
Ida Estelle Corbett*



*Ida Estelle Corbett  
Sep. 8, 1860 - May  
21, 1932*

# **CORBETT-PADGETT**



*Barney Padgett*



*Ida May Matthews Padgett*



# CREWS

*and related families*



**Aaron Smith Crews (1877-1936)**  
Son of Samuel P. Crews &  
Frances M. Alvarez



**Nathan Foster Crews (1892-1976)**  
Son of Burton C. Crews  
& Georgia Ann Bennett



**Willis Crews (1866-1944)**  
Son of Calvin McDonald  
Crews & Sarah Jane Stokes. He  
was blind, yet an expert wood  
carver & cross tie sawyer.



**Courtney Victoria "Tory" (Crews) Hodges (1870-1949)**, daughter of Archibald Graham Crews & Honor C. Bradley, wife of John Joshua Hodges and unknown child (center)



**Nova Crews, born 1910**, daughter of John J. Crews (1873-1947), First "Miss Baker" 1924



**James Leslie Crews 1891-1949**  
Son of Joseph & Nancy, husband of Elizabeth.



**Anna (Crews) 1895-1971 & Joseph O. Raulerson 1899-1974**  
Daughter of B.C. Crews



**Isiah Leon Crews, Jr. WWII (18 Apr 1925 - 28 Jan 2002)** buried in the Florida National Cemetary, Bushnell, FL, son of Isiah Leon Crews ( 1888 - 1942) and Nancy Rhoden (1898 - 1982), husband of Myrtle Davis, married 1946, father of Beth, James, Larry and Sheree. This WWII Post Card Photo was sent from Belgium to Raiford, FL, to his cousin Melvene Alma Davis.

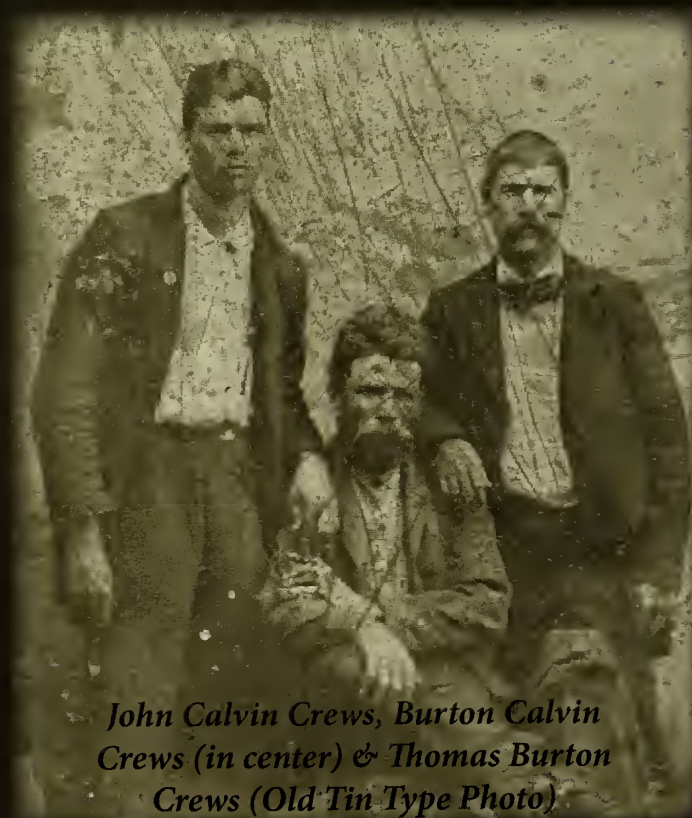




*Thomas Burton Crews (1887-1951) & Family, son of Burton C. Crews & Georgia Ann Bennett (in oval below), husband of Mary Thrift (daughter of James W. Thrift & Nancy Crews)  
Father of Roy (1908-1973), Donald Thomas (1910-1962), Lillie Estelle (1913-1997), Edward James (1916-2000), Mattie Ruth (1920- ) & Lennie Mary (1924 - )*



*Jefferson Earl Crews (1883-c1938)  
Son of Calvin McDonald Crews & Sarah June Stokes, husband of Kate Norman.  
Father of Albert 1915, Myrtle 1917, Thelma 1919, Harold 1921, Alean 1923, Earl Jefferson 1925, Charles L 1927 & Lillian 1930*



*John Calvin Crews, Burton Calvin Crews (in center) & Thomas Burton Crews (Old Tin Type Photo)*

C  
R  
E  
W  
S





*Henry Graham, Emily (Hodges),  
and Grandchildren*

*To the right: Ealie  
Jackson Crews  
(1880-1947)  
& Maggie (Crews)  
Crews (1885-1949)  
Children: Herman,  
Lonnie J., Mamie  
& Essie. Ealie was  
one of the sons of  
Henry G. Crews &  
Emily Hodges*



*Henry Graham Crews  
(1854-1924) & Emily  
Hodges (1860-1928),  
son of Archibald  
Graham Crews &  
Honor C. Bradley*

# CREWS

*Sons of Henry Graham and Emily had unusual names and were all very young when they passed away*



*Champion "Champ" Crews  
(1894-1945)*



*Cuba Crews  
(1902-1944)*



*German Clarence Crews  
(1896-1943)*





Noah Jefferson Davis (1854-1922) photo ca. 1907, son of Zary Davis & Mary (Polly) Bennett Davis



Mittie Davis (1882-1968), wife of John Burnett, III, daughter of Noah J. Davis & Emily S. Long



Delila Davis Crawford (1866-1903)  
Wife of Matthew Crawford (1855-1936)  
Daughter of Samuel Joseph Davis & Latisha Batten

# DAVIS

*and related families*



John Randall Davis, Sr. (1867-1944)



Job Davis & Sallie Johns



Mary Marguerite "Maggie" Yelvington-Davis 1851-1919,  
Wife of James S. Davis, Mother of Josephine, Elias L, Rhoda, Holly, James F, Charles B, Gussie, Sidney J, Margaret & George E.



# DAVIS

*and related families*

*Josephine "Josie" Davis  
1869-1924  
(Old Tin Type Picture)*



*Josephine "Josie" Davis 1869-1924  
Daughter of James H. Davis & Maggie  
Yelvington, wife of Jackson H. Johnson  
with Lewis & Frank*



*Three Rhodens and a Davis*

*Mitchell Rhoden, standing in a light colored shirt holding a pistol in his left hand. Standing next to him is Henry Rhoden. Sitting with a pistol in his right hand is Dan Rhoden (Henry's twin). They are sons of William Rhoden and America Arnold. The already balding guy with the "bowl hair cut" is their brother-in-law, 25 year old Angus Clifton Davis.*



*To the left is Ozzie  
Davis (1881-1949)  
& Pearl Green Davis  
(1887-1970), son of  
Jim & Martha*



*Wilda Ann, Unknown boy, Eddie  
"Ed" & Cassie (Manning) Davis*



# DOPSON / DOBSON



*Bessie Dopson (1888-1968)*



*Bessie Dopson Johnson  
Ann Dobson Greene*



*Elijah James Dobson, Sr. 1860-1950  
Mary Jane Roberts 1861-1955*



*Walter A. Dobson (1912-1989)*



*L-R Front row - Wilber, Donald  
& Eunice, Back row - George &  
Daisy (Fraser) Dobson, holding  
Mattie*



*Edith and Gertrude  
Dobson,  
daughters of George  
Dobson & Daisy Fraser,  
Sanderson, Florida*



*Frank Dorman at CM Barber's Place*



**DORMAN**



*Nolan Dorman, 1908 to 1990, son of Andrew and Mary Dorman of Sanderson*



*Verdie Dorman (oval) 1905-1985 (wife of Tholon Dorman)  
Tholon and Verdie Dorman Home (below)*







*Thelma & Ethel Drawdy  
Daughters of Neal & Ollie*



*Annie Edna & Agnes Drawdy,  
daughters of Edwin D. Drawdy &  
Vertie Strickland*



*Ethel Drawdy Reddish c. 1914*



*Thelma Drawdy  
as adult and as  
a child*

# **DRAWDY**

*and related families*



*Thelma Drawdy, Bessie Rowe Fraser  
& unknown man*



*To the left is a Picnic at Vaughn Wash Hole  
L-R, Clem Worley, Kathryn Tracey, Ethel  
Drawdy, Mrs Mattie Rowe Fraser, Rose Blair,  
Bessie Rowe, Carrie Rowe, Sallie Rowe, Alma  
Rowe, Alfred Johnson, Will Barber, Arthur Rowe*





*Del, Neal & Ed Drawdy  
Sons of Corneilus & Charity*



*Essie Drawdy Wilkinson,  
youngest child of Corneilus  
Drawdy and Charity Rowe*



*Ada Drawdy Thomas, daugh-  
ter of Cornelius & Chairty. She  
married James Smith Thomas  
18 Oct 1894.*



*Lacy Thomas family 1965  
Ada Drawdy Thomas in center*



*Ada and Mollie Drawdy,  
daughters of Corneilus and  
Charity Rowe Drawdy*



*Ollie Barber Drawdy Dorman*



*Dora Strickland Zipperer Mothershed Family Members 1.  
Maydell 2. Esther Zipperer 3. Dora 4. James Mothershed 5.  
Douglas Drawdy 6. Min Drawdy 7. Lilly Bass 8. Leonard  
Haizlip 9. Edith Bass 10. Margaret Zipperer 11. Clarence  
Bass 12. Milledge Bass 13. Walter Drawdy 14. Cecil Drawdy*

**DRAWDY**

*and related families*



# DUGGER



*Emmett Z. Dugger  
(1880-1960)  
son of David Jackson,  
brother to Charles  
Dart Dugger,  
husband of Kellie  
Harris*



*Sarah Jane (Combs) Dugger  
Daughter of George Combs and Mary Ann  
(Ellerby) Lowry. Born around 1850, death  
unknown. Wife of David Jackson Dugger.*



*David Jackson Dugger  
(18 Jun 1851 - 22 May 1926)*





*Ode, Sarah, Ada & Nealie Dugger*



*George Jackson, Sarah Elizabeth  
(daughter of Ode Dugger)  
& Clifford Combs*



*Clifford Combs & cousin Hazel Thomas.  
Hazel was the daughter of Brantley  
Frazier Thomas and Gussie Roberts. She  
was raised by Steve and Ada Roberts  
after her mother was killed in a car  
accident in the late 1920s.*



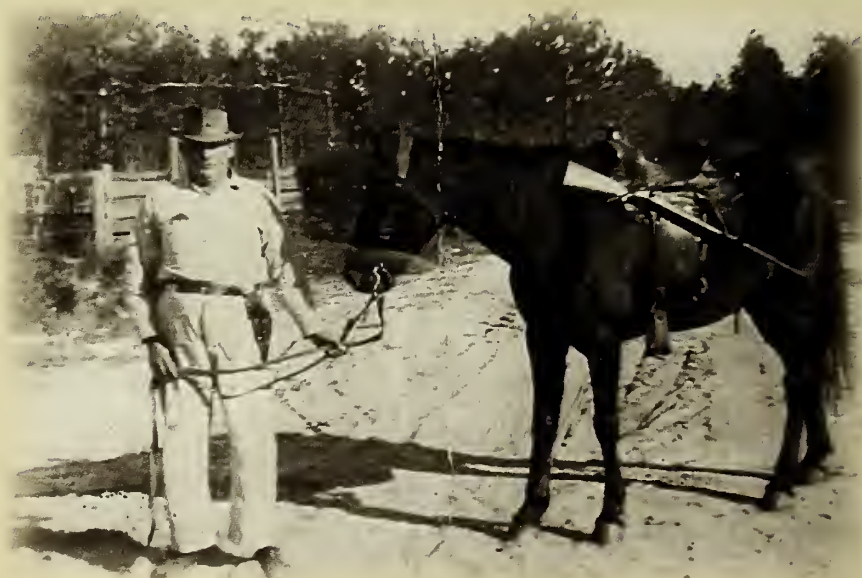
*Sarah Dugger-Combs, Nettie Roberts-Chalker.  
Steve & Ada Harvey-Roberts; kneeling,  
Clifford Combs & Jerry Cutchen*

## **DUGGER AND RELATED**





*Steve Roberts, Cornelia "Neal" Dugger, Pencie Dugger, Nettie Roberts Dugger Chalker, Owen J. Dugger Jr., Carrie Lee "Boots" Dugger, W.A. Chalker, Ortia, Sarah Dugger and Ada Mae Dugger (Circa 1917)*



*Frank Dugger (1888-1969)  
Son of John A. Dugger & Rebecca Starling*

# **BUGGER**

*Eva Mae Dugger Walker & Ann Dugger Crews  
April 13, 1898*





*Johnnie Jackson Dugger, Sr., husband of Martha Wiggins Dugger, who was the daughter of Jesse and Lucinda Wiggins. She was the first wife of William Joseph Crews and second John Jackson Dugger.*



*Victoria Dugger (1866-1967), the daughter of John and Rebecca Dugger and the wife of Aniello (Johnnie) Dimigallo, Sanderson merchants*



*Victoria Dugger Dimigallo (1888-1967) and Aniello "Johnnie" Dimigallo (1880-1964) (Buried in Cedar Creek Cemetery)*

## **BUGGER AND RELATED FAMILIES**



*Charlie Dugger, 1970*



*Addie Rhoden-Dugger*

*Charlie Dugger & Addie Rhoden  
Wedding Picture 16 May 1907*

**CHARLIE DUGGER  
AND ADDIE RHODEN  
DUGGER**





*Children of John & Rebecca Dugger - L-R:  
Johnnie "Bunk", Frank, Arthur, Hillary, Tony & Victoria*



*Johnnie and Arthur Dugger, sons of John and Rebecca*

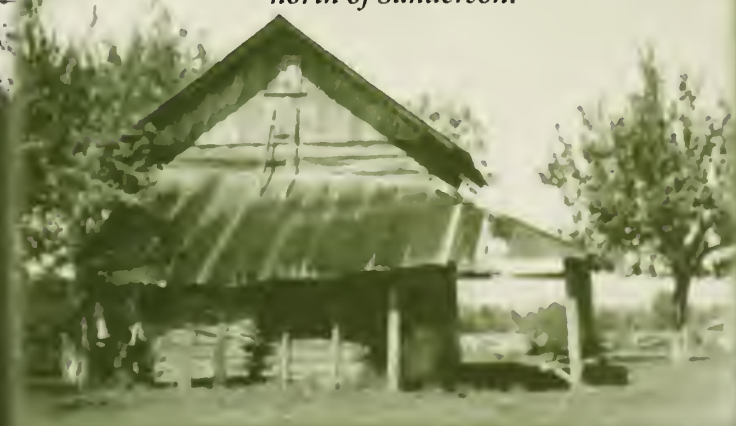
# DUGGER



*Dugger family at the old Dugger Home Place  
north of Sanderson.*

*Henry Dugger Home Place North of Sanderson  
Henry Jackson and Mary Williams, (1868-1929)  
Charlie "Dart" family, little girl is Annette.*

*Cane grinding day*







*Owen James Dugger (1880-1914)*



*Robert David Dugger (1876-1917)  
and Effie Stone Dugger (1888-1964)*

**DUGGER**



*Owen and Sarah Combs Dugger Family: Sarah Combs Dugger, Sara Dugger (granddaughter), Owen Dugger, Nettie Dugger with Cornelia "Neal" "Nealie" Dugger and Steve Roberts with Ada Dugger*



# BUGGER

*Annette Dugger, Bobbie Sue (baby - daughter of Lautice  
and Sarah Crawford Dugger) & Lloyd Dugger*



*Sarah Crawford Dugger (1913 - 2007) &  
Lautice Dugger (1908 - 1982)*



# EISERMAN



*Charles Eiserman  
1842-1906, and wife  
Augusta Kruger,  
who was born Hesse,  
Germany*



*Charles Eiserman, Jr.*

*John Henry Eiserman (1868-1954)*

*In the oval John & Ethel Eiserman Family  
Willie, Florence Mae, Earl & Robert*



# GARRETT

*and related families*



William Garrett (1837-1934)  
& wife Henrietta Hogan, son  
of Obediah Garrett & Mary  
Murry, Parents of Frank  
M., Rosa, Lewis, George W.,  
Sarah, James M., Charlie,  
Zelphia, Charney & Vallie



In the oval to the left is George Washington  
Garrett (1840-1918), son of Obediah Garrett  
& Mary Murry, husband of 1) Louvilla Mizell  
2) Elizabeth Simmons 3) Esther Deliah Ann  
Butler



Fred Garrett, East McClenny Early 1900s



Arthur Lindsey Garrett, born 1901,  
son of Francis Marion Garrett & Elva  
Catherine Mobley, husband of Susie  
Bell Kirkland



Nova Irene Garrett  
Daughter of George W. Garrett

Rosetta  
and James  
Monroe  
Garrett,  
daughter  
Pearlie Lee  
1915





# GARRETT *and related families*



Charles "Charlie" Garrett 1888-1967



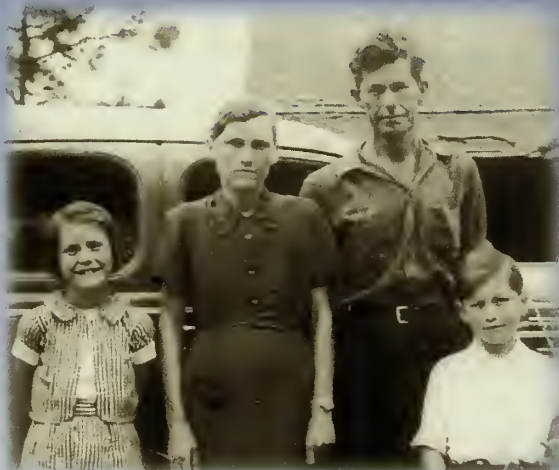
Annie Mae Mobley, Arthur Garrett & Donnie Nipper



George W. Garrett 1878-1964 & Sarah Caroline Thrift 1886-1960, Sarah holding Leona Easter & Nellie Ellen (1902-1953)



Owen King "Bud" Garrett (1873-1953)



L-R: Alma Elizabeth Garrett, Lear Crews Garrett, Charney Garrett & Travis Garrett ca. 1935



Ed & Alma Garrett Canady  
Ed is son of Eddie Berry Canady Sr & Lila Bennett. Alma is the daughter of Charney Garrett & Lela Crews Garrett. Married 31 December 1947.



Herman Lee (1907-1972) son of Frank & Matilda & Walter Lindsey (1925), son of Arthur L. Garrett



Bottom center photo is Monroe Powers & Grover Cleveland Garrett



# GARRETT *and related families*



William "Bill" & Heneretia (Hogan) Garrett Family, Pioneer settlers of North McClenny in the Macedonia area. Standing: Sarah Garrett Starling, Steve Starling, Sarah Thrift Garrett, James Monroe Garrett, George W. Garrett, Zelfhia Garrett Starling Muse, Rose Garrett McStephson, Matilda Garrett, Frank Garrett and Mary. Sitting George Garrett, (child in arms is Nellie), Charlie Garrett, Heneretia Hogan Garrett, (holding Nathan Stanley or Dan Starling) both names have been given, William "Bill" Garrett (holding Nathan Stanley or Dan Starling) Child in cap Vellie Garrett, Henry Norton, Long Garrett, (child in arms). Child in front is Charney Garrett. Missing family member is Lewis who was absent working in Deland.



Garrett Family in front of Garrett (Macedonia Church)

Bud Thomas and Lulu Powers Thomas, Elias (Sweet) Garret Thomas, Frank Garrett, OB Garrett, wife Matilda, Lewis Garrett, Charlie Garrett, Walter Garrett, George and Sarah Garrett, Monroe Garrett & Ernest Garrett



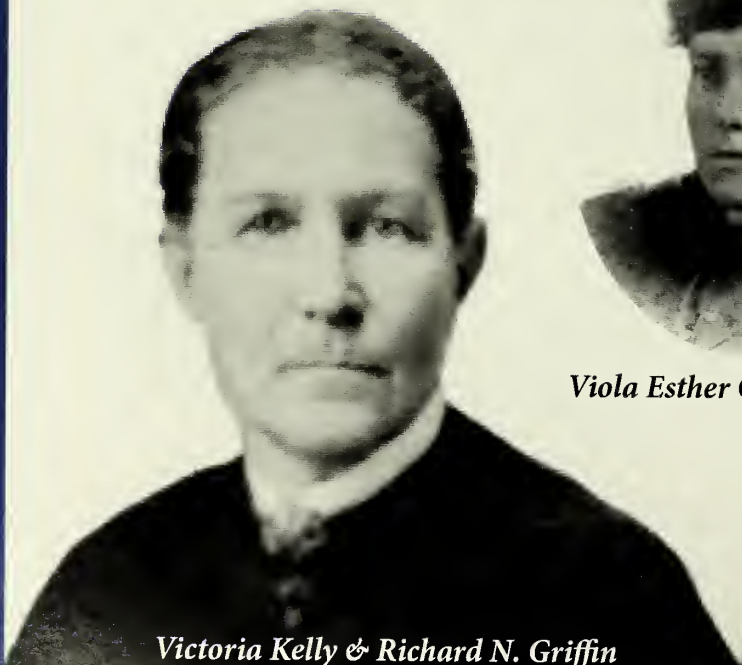
*Hugh Griffin*



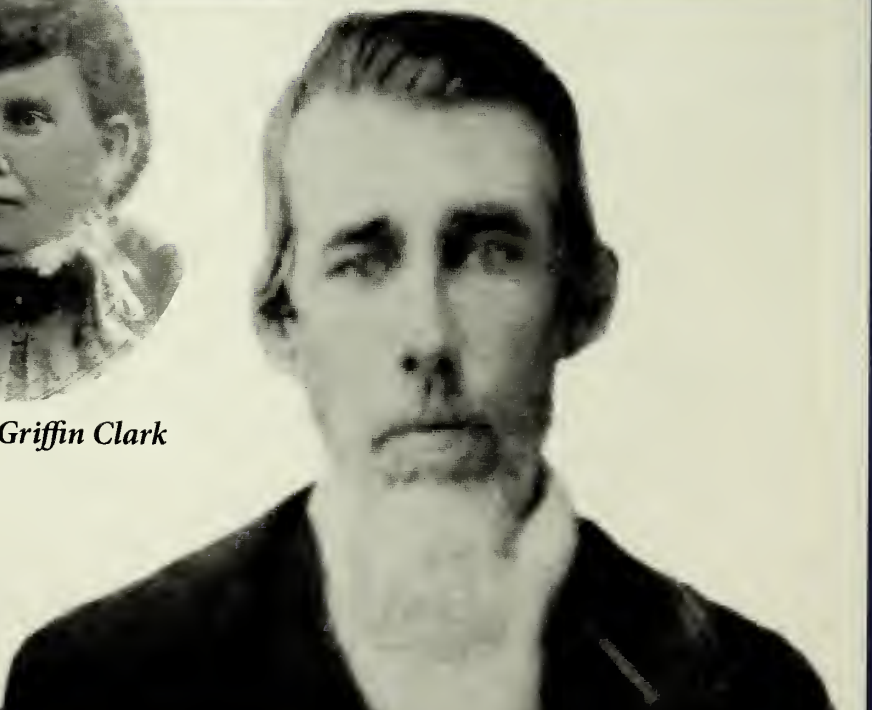
*Thomas J.  
Griffin*



*Viola Esther Griffin Clark*



*Victoria Kelly & Richard N. Griffin*



**GRIFFIN**



# GRIFFING



*Griffing family began the Griffing Nursery, forerunner to the Southern States Nursery*



*Griffing family home pictured is Mrs. Griffing and son Johnny with three adopted daughters Doris, Mary and Bessie. Standing alone in photo to the right is Bessie Griffing on Easter Sunday, April 20, 1930, after Baccalaureate service for the graduating class of 1930 McClenny High School. Below left are Griffing children at the beach.*



*At the turn of the century, the Griffings moved to Baker County and started a wholesale nursery south of town. They had one son, Johnny. In time the Griffings went to Jacksonville to the Children's Home Society and brought three girls who were sisters home to live with them: Bessie, Mary and Doris Walters. Bessie married Ernon Fraser, Doris, Hugh Westbrook and Mary, Hollis Ivy. Eventually, the Griffing couple moved south and the nursery was purchased by James Fraser and became Southern States Nursery, owned by 4 Generations of Frasers: James Fraser, then Edwin Fraser, later Gary Fraser now Ryan Fraser*



# GRIFFIS



*Westberry Griffis 1835-1905 (Long Branch Cemetery)*



*Robert Berry "Bob" Griffis (1890-1971) buried South Prong Cemetery, taken ca. 1911, age 21*



*John 1888-1962 & Hester Griffis 1881-1951 (Pine Grove Cemetery, Union Co)*



*Lucinda Griffis (1869-1864) & John Berry Griffis (1863-1952), daughter of Richard Griffis & Rhoda Starling - son of Westberry Griffis & Eliza Wilkerson. Both buried Long Branch Cemetery.*



*Sarah Jane Griffis 1868-1965 daughter of Westberry & Eliza - buried Long Branch Cemetery*



*Laura (Blitch) (Clark) Griffis 1860-1928, 3rd wife of Westberry, buried Evergreen Cemetery Union Co.*



*Ore E. Rigester & Willie Melton Griffis (1889-1983), son of Westberry & Laura - buried Mantown Cemetery*





*Confederate Veterans John Vickery  
(1839-1933) & Jesse Shepard Grooms  
(1844-1932)*

*Ernest Normal Grooms (1878-1945)  
& Jennie Creola Vickery (1883-1959)*



*A.J., Lucy, Jesse, Fleta (Grooms) Mobley w/baby, Annie Mae &  
Donald on calf*



*Neta & Fleta Grooms*

# GROOMS

*and related families*





*Jesse O. Harvey - 1888-1971 Taylor cemetery, son of John W. Harvey & Tina Cason - husband of Lenora Altman*



*Duncan & Lila Harvey (holding Nettie Ruth), 1800s house still standing today*



*Grover Cleveland "Cleve" Harvey & Emily Davis 50th Anniversary 1955, Children L-R: Johnny C, Alan "Pete", Lucius, L.E., Lillie, Mazie, Leila, Alline & Fairley. NOTE: Alan "Pete" and Alline are twins.*

*John J. "Jack" Harvey*



*Lloyd & Daisy Rhoden Harvey & Daughters, L-R: Junita Taylor, Margie Davis, Hazel Taylor & Jeanette Alford. Their home had the oldest brick fireplace in the county.*



*Fred Harvey 1901-1966 and Sadie Raulerson Harvey*

# HARVEY

*and related families*



# HILL



*Janie Hill Wigg*



*Edna Hill Grindstaff*

*Dr. James Hamilton Hill, husband of Martha Thomas. Physician during the Civil War. Accused and tried for not following orders to amputate limbs. He would take the time to save the limb when he felt it could be saved.*



*Thaddeus A. Hill and four of his beautiful daughters.*

*Married Margaret Greene July 4, 1872. They had 12 children.*



*Nellie Hill Maddock*



*Ella Hill Roberts*



*George H. Hill, Sr. son of Thaddeus and Margaret Greene Hill*



*As children, Thaddeus Alphonzo and Robert James Hill sons of Martha & Dr. Hill*



*Martha Elizabeth Thomas Hill, wife of Dr. James H. Hill*

*Photo to the left: seated is Thaddeus and Margaret Hill. Standing: Edna, Alice, Ella, Ida, Nellie, Janie*



# HOWELL



*Emma (Barfield)  
Howell and Marshal  
Howell with son Ralph  
ca. 1900*



*Thad Howell*

## *The M.T. Howell Store as it was around 1901.*

*On the left is Mr. Howell who came to Baker County from Mount Olive, NC, and is reputed to have brought the first sawmill into the county. Around 1894, he bought the Darby-Savage House (known later as the "Hardware Brown House") and opened this store selling general merchandise. Note the bedstead in the left window. The young man in the center, framed in the doorway is the late Duncan Rhoden, a junior clerk. The white-shirted gentleman at the right was also a clerk, the hard drinking and buggy-for-hire, Bob Rogers. Mr. Howell with his son, Thad L. later founded the Bon-Howell Lumber Company in Jacksonville in 1912.*



*l-r Thad, Dan, Ralph, Mae (Howell) Powers & Merle Howell*



*Floyd Howell 1925*



*Minnie Howell 1921*



# HURST



*James Massey Hurst (1902-1961)  
& Elene Thrift Barber,  
son of Nathan H. Hurst &  
Wealthy Ann Hodges*



*Massey, Wayne and Mary Hurst Wayne was first County Coordinator (1931-1995)*



# JOHNSON



*Jackson H. "Jack" Johnson (1857-1925)  
son of Josiah H. Johnson & Elizabeth Mary  
Harvey, husband of Josephine Davis*



*Josephine "Josie" Davis-Johnson  
(1869-1924), Old Tin Type picture,  
wife of "Jack"*



*John Josiah "Budder" Johnson (1855-1944)  
with Maggie Johnson-Chesser  
Old Tin Type picture*





*John Josiah "Budder" Johnson (1855-1944)  
with Dorothy & Wendell Mobley (Great grand  
nephew/niece), Son of Josiah H. Johnson &  
Elizabeth Mary Haravey*



*Joe Johnson*



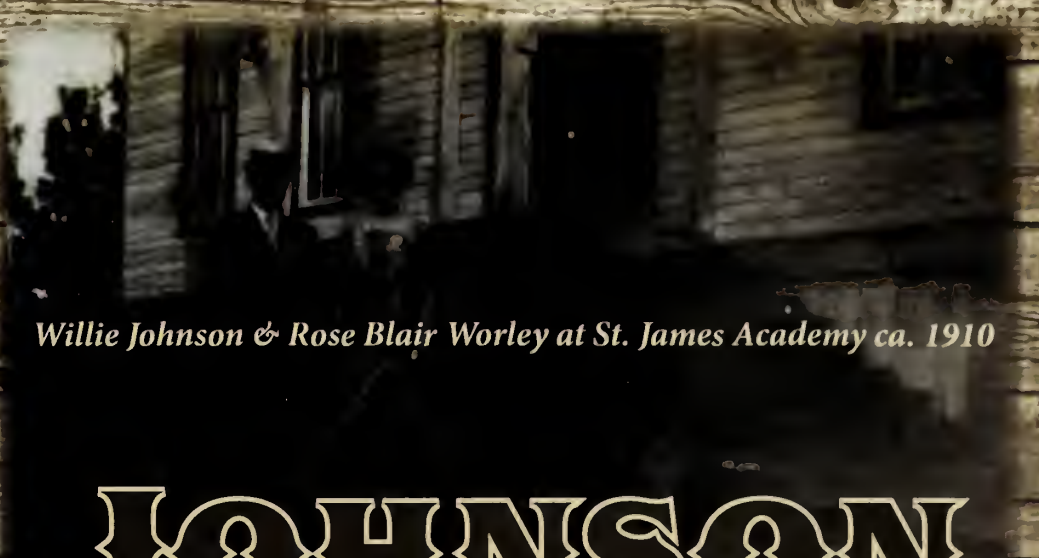
*Willie Johnson*



*James Robert Johnson, Jr. and Family*



*Tempe Estella (Dollie) Carroll  
Kirkland Johnson (1886-1966)*



*Willie Johnson & Rose Blair Worley at St. James Academy ca. 1910*

# JOHNSON



# JOHNSON



*Bruce Johnson  
(standing)  
on a  
Gator Hunt  
ca. 1923  
son of  
Cleveland  
Johnson*



*Taken in Lake Butler, ca. 1908, in front of Frank Rivers Blacksmith shop, Jesse Johnson on the mule, his son Jesse Jr. is behind the car and the rest are Rivers*



# JONES



*Mary Rebecca Dowling  
Wife of John Jones - ca.  
1840-1923*



*John Jones 1835-1892  
husband of Mary Rebecca  
Dowling Jones*



*Andrew Jackson Green (1861-1928) and Mary  
L. Jones Green (1866-1939), with their new car  
sometime around 1920*



*Bessie Jones & Mother*



*John Henry Jones (Henry)  
& first wife Elizabeth Stallings (Lizzy)  
This photo was made in 1901, somewhere in Baker  
County Florida. Both are buried in South Prong  
Cemetery in Sanderson, Florida. Henry was born 24 Jan  
1865 and died 14 Jan 1911. Lizzy was born in 1870 and  
died 18 April 1901. They were married 10 Sep 1884.*



*John Henry  
Jones and  
2nd wife  
Ida Hill  
(1875-1949)  
buried  
Riverside  
Jax*



# ALLEN AND LINDA HART

## PIONEER RESIDENTS OF

### TRAILRIDGE



*Linda Hart (1888-1931), an accomplished Paris trained artist, paints a self portrait of herself painting a portrait of her husband Allen Hart (1880-1959). Portrait was in 1910. The couple moved from Mount Clemens, Michigan to Trailridge in 1912. They were the parents of Nellie Hart (Day-Farris), Roy, Gail, and Robert*

*Trailridge  
Home of  
Allen &  
Linda Hart*



## PROUD AMERICANS

*Three Generations of Bronze Stars*

*Robert Hart - World War II, 1945*

*Bobby Hart - Operation Iraqi Freedom 2007*

*Dustin Hart - Operation Enduring Freedom 2009*





# JONES, DAVIS ~~AND~~ RAULERSON FAMILY

## PIONEERS OF SANDERSON

### FIVE GENERATIONS OF CARPENTERS



*Annie Levina Jones,  
Mother of Lewis Jones,  
Earnestine and Pauline  
Jones, daughters and other  
person unknown*



*Owen Davis, Phoebe Raulerson Davis and Baby Tressie,  
Blanch & Rosa*



*Ray Jones helping with the  
building of Heritage Park  
Village*



*Lewis Jones Family  
Back Row, L-R: Lewis, Tressie, Franklin.  
Middle Row L-R: Bernice, Margaret.  
Front row L-R: Earl, Ray*

*Lewis (son  
of Levina  
Bryant Jones  
& Joseph  
Jones) &  
Tressie  
Davis Jones  
(daughter  
of Owen  
& Pheobe  
Raulerson  
Davis)*





# KIRKLAND



George Cidney Kirkland (1861-1928)  
Successful farmer and school trustee  
for the Glen St. Mary School



Nettie Candacy Hurst (1875-1920) wife  
Of George Cidney Kirkland. The couple  
moved from Columbia County to Baker  
in 1902. They had 16 children.



James Corbett Kirkland (1902-1974)  
son of Joseph Dozier Kirkland & Tempe  
Estella "Dollie" Carroll, husband (1)  
Ola Mae Johnson (2) Lecy M. Richard-  
son-Rhoden, Photo taken ca. 1972



Dollie Kirkland Johnson Family  
Shown first in the back row Dolly Carroll  
(nee) Kirkland Johnson (1886-1966) raised  
a total of 23 children some of which are  
pictured here, back row beside of Dollie is  
Corbett Kirkland, Nola Kirkland Deese,  
Mitch Kirkland, Lizzie Kirkland Crawford,  
Shubert Kirkland, JB Kirkland, Josephine  
Kirkland Crawford Arnold, Rosa J. Croft,  
Front row: Ealie Johnson, Steve Kirkland,  
Bob Kirkland, Edgar Kirkland, Tex Johnson



Joseph A. "Dozier" Kirkland ca. 1900  
(1876-1939)



Sadie (Burnsed-Mobley) & Robert Lacy "Bob" Kirkland (1911-1998)



# KNABB



*James Washington Knabb*



*Caroline "Carrie" (Knabb) Hires  
1884-1966*



*William Knabb 1890-1971  
husband of Ida Mae (1884-1971)*



*Lucious Lamar (1923-1965) & Minnie Knabb  
Son of Paul K and Pauline A.N. Arline*



*Hodges, Knabb & Chisholm*

*Mattie Hodges, Hattie Knabb, Bob Knabb, Lizzie Chisholm, Charlie Hodges, Leona Howard Knabb, wife of Thomas J. 1882-1948, Paul K Knabb 1895-1966, Lucius Knabb, Trudy Knabb, Alice Knabb, George Knabb, Will Knabb & Ida Mae Knabb, wife of William 20 Oct 1884, died 26 Dec 1971*





*Ida Mae Knabb & Lizzie (Knabb) Chisholm*



*Lizzie (Knabb) and Stanley Chisholm*

*William Knabb, Fred Jones, Emory Jones,  
Asa Coleman, Jr. (Baker County Sheriff), J.A. Shuler at Knabb Turpentine Co.  
The Knabb family ran the largest turpentine operation in the nation at that time.*



**KNABB**



# WILLIAM AND IDA MAE KNABB 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



*William & Ida Mae Knabb*



*Children: Earl, James, Billy, Eloise, Bernice & Loyce*



*Grandchildren: top row, left to right, Diane Knabb Dorman, Joyce Knabb Tuttle, Fyle Thornton Wombles, Lissie Knabb McCauley, Joan Knabb Yarbrough, Ann Knabb Yarbrough bottom row, left to right, Raleigh Knabb, Jimmy Knabb, Earl Knabb, Jr., Bobby Dugger & George Knabb*



*Little Earl (top left) is in the wrong photo... he is a grandchild. GREAT-Grandchildren: top row, Lou Ann Yarbrough, Joan Yarbrough, Tine Yarbrough Barber, 2nd row, Otis Yarbrough, David Yarbrough, Jane Dugger Rhoden, 3rd row, Carolyn Dugger McCullough, Danny Yarbrough, Carol Ann Yarbrough, Woody Knabb, Susan Yarbrough and Sheryl Yarbrough*





*Wendell Lyons  
& Nieces*



*Wendell Lyons  
& Donnie Nipper*



*Jewell Lyons &  
Johnnie Burnsed*

# LYONS



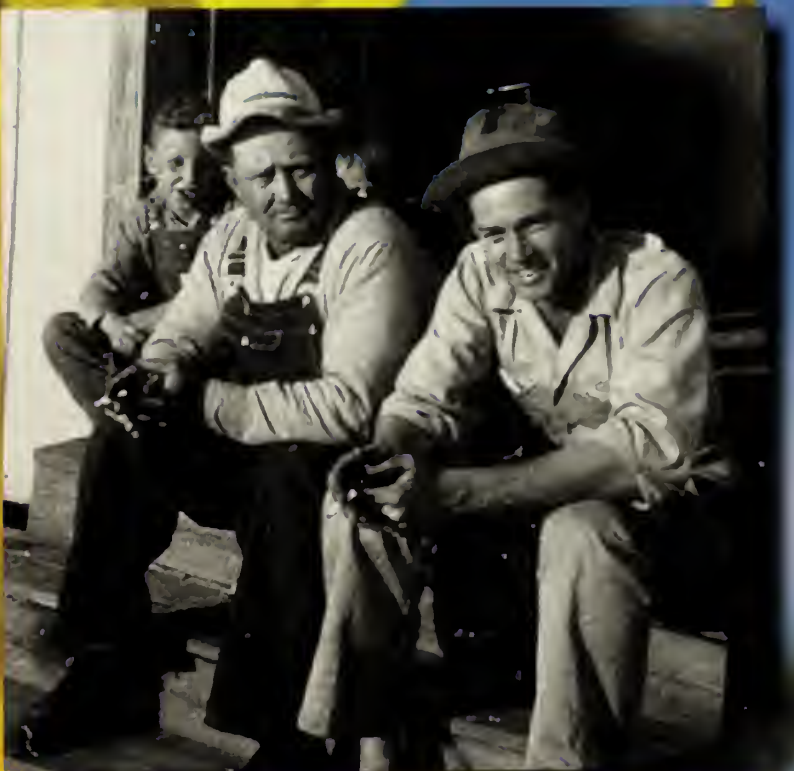
# LAURAMORE



*John L. "Red" Lauramore (1885-1978)  
& Minnie Thrift (1899-1982), son of  
John Herman Cruse - daughter of Rufus  
Archibald Thrift*



*Sanada "Nader" Thrift, Minnie Thrift Lauramore  
Daughters of Rufe Thrift*



*Grady Thomas (L) & Carlton Lauramore (R)*



# MANN

*State Representative William Daniel Mann in Tallahassee (1854-1930), Son of William James Mann and Evelyn Wells (William J. Mann who has a marker at Swift Creek Cemetery but was actually buried at Bethel Cemetery, Knoxville, TN CSA Co. A, 7th Regt. Fla, father of John W., Leattie, Dan, Jim, Issac & W. J., Jr.*



*William Joseph Mann  
1884-1956, son of  
William Daniel &  
Jessie Mann, husband  
of Adeline Fraser*



*Adeline Fraser Mann  
1890-1918, wife of  
William Joseph Mann,  
daughter of B. H. &  
Maranda Fraser*



# **ALICE NORA MANN PEAKS**



**W. H. PEAKS**

*Married W. H. PEAKS on October 29, 1903  
Settled in Baker County Florida and records show affiliation with  
McClenny United Methodist Church in 1906*



# MANNING



*Back Row L-R: Della Thornton Manning, possibly Henrietta (sister of George), Jane Manning Williams. Middle Row L-R: J.C. Manning, Edna Jane E. Parrot, George Manning, Front Row L-R: Edith Manning Christensen, Jolley Manning, Mannie Williams*



*George Randolph Manning (1858-1934)*



*Henrietta French Manning Tucker (1855-1913), sister of James Hamilton & George Randolph Manning, wife of Isaac Josiah Tucker - buried South Prong Cemetery*



*Minnie Ella (Murrhee) "Belle", Daniel Washington Manning, Ellery, Albert Freeman "Bill" & Zelma Manning (Dan's first wife). In the ovals surrounding this photo are Dan (older) then Aubrey, son of Dan, and Juanita, daughter of Dan*







*John Manning (1895-1945 So. Prong),  
husband of Edna (1904-1993)*



*Daisy & Della Manning Fridell (1894-  
1978 So Prong)*



*Daniel Webster "Dan" Manning  
(1897-1956 - South Prong Cemetery)*

# MANNING



*Eddie "Ed" Davis with his Ford, first husband of Cassie Manning Davis. Bottom left is James Hamilton Manning & Eddie Davis. James H. son of George Washington Manning & Edna Jane E. Parrott, husband of Mary Jane Rymer-Wainwright, father of Wealthy Ann, Mittie Albertha, Della Catherine, John Washington, Daniel Webster, James Cleveland, Cassie Viola, Callie Jane, Isaac Joseph, Effie Ucille & Dennis M.*





Mary Jane (Rymer-Wainwright) Manning (1869-1942), South Prong Cemetery, known as "Jenny" with children Isaac Joseph "I. J." & Effie, wife of James Hamilton Manning - taken 1907



Effie



Jenny



Mary Jane Manning, Esther (Hodges) & Isaac J. Manning (first wife)



Marion Boatwright, husband of Effie

Effie Uille Manning, daughter of Mary Jane, sister to I.J. and James both pictured to right. That is her in the oval above and her husband.



Isaac Joseph "I.J." Manning (1905-1966 South Prong) husband of Esther Irene Hodges



James Cleveland Manning 1898-1965 & Essie Dugger 1908-1976, son of J.H. Manning & Mary Jane Wainwright

# MANNING





*Ordella Cordella "Della" (Thornton) & John Calvin "JC" Manning, brother of J.H.*



*Cassie (Manning) Davis*



*Wilda Ann, Hubert Thomas & Cassie (Manning) Davis*

# MANNING



*Joan & Winston Manning*



*Back - Evelyn [Sweat], Sylvester & Cassie Cora (Davis) Manning, Front - Oveda & Joan Manning*

*Cassie Cora is Ed Manning's dau by his 1st wife & Step dau of Cassie (Manning) Davis*



*Maxine Hodges-Manning & Sylvester Manning*



*John Sylvester & mother, Cassie Cora Manning*



*John Sylvester (1923-1975) & Maxine (Hodges) (1930-1987) Manning in 1965*



# MATHEWS



*William Lyon Mathews*

*Husband of Annie Mae Dunford, father of Hunter Alexander, Juanita and Willie Mae Mathews*

*Annie Mae (Dunford) Mathews*

*Wife of William Lyon Mathews, mother of Hunter Alexander, Juanita and Willie Mae Mathews*



*Hunter Alexander Mathews  
4 Nov. 1910 to 29 Feb. 1980  
while attending Gordon  
Military College in  
Barnesville, Georgia*



*Hunter Alexander, Willie Mae  
(Mathews) Gilbert and William  
Lyon Mathews*





*William and Willie Mae Gilbert at their home in McClenny, Florida. The couple was the first citizens to have in-door plumbing.*

*The Mathews family moved to McClenny from Green Cove Springs in 1923, when the town's population was 981 citizens. William Lion Mathews and his wife, Annie Mae Dunford, was in the hardware business. Highway 90 was in the process of being paved but all the other streets were unpaved and very sandy. Cows and hogs often lay in the path of the few cars and horse drawn wagons and buggies. The Mathews family, Hunter Alexander, Juanita and Willie Mae, were among the first in the city to have indoor plumbing. The Mathews daughter, Willie Mae, married William Gilbert in 1926. William was in the Merchant Marines and the couple often met at different ports. In 1935, they moved to McClenny to join Willa Mae's family. The country was in a Depression and Will took a job selling sewing machines. In time, Will became a successful hardware merchant and brilliant self-made house mover. He once successfully moved a hospital with patients still in their beds and another time a house with a bowl of eggs on the table that were not disturbed. The Mathews and Gilbert families were among the most prominent families in Baker County and have continued through the decades to contribute to the growth and development of the community.*



*Hunter Alexander Mathews  
4 Nov. 1910 - 29 Feb. 1980  
Mary Melissa Mathews  
21 Nov. 1913 - Mar. 1990  
circa 1932*



# MILTON



*David R. Milton  
1827 - 1880*



*Sarah Utley Milton  
1830 - 1895*



*Clarence Josephus  
Milton (1865-1924)*



*Ann Dell (Herndon)  
Milton 1879-1966*



*Joseph Oliver Milton, Jr.,  
son of Joseph O. and Isabel  
(Massey) Milton*



*Beatrice M. Milton (Piatt)  
1903-1976*



*Milton Brother and Sisters photo taken at a family reunion at Milondale in the early 1960s.  
Left to right: Cora Lee (Toby), Harold, Minnie Ruth, Sarah (Susie), John, Beatrice (Bea), Van, Lloyd, and Joseph Oliver (Joe)*



# MOBLEY



*Jesse Daniel Mobley (1850-1925) & Family, son of Edward Mobley & Judy Scott*



*Jesse Daniel Mobley & Tobitha Taylor Mobley*



*Tobitha Taylor Mobley (1852-1923) & daughter Ida Mobley Chalker*



*Renovated Home of Jesse D. Mobley (1850-1925)*



*Cane Grinding on A.J. Mobley's farm*

*L-R: R. Claude, Lucy, Donald, Annie Mae, Jesse, Andrew J. & W. Lacy Mobley*

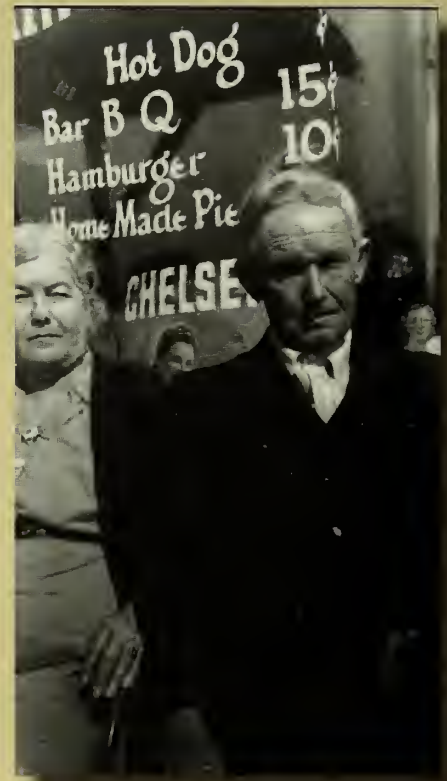




*Levi Ellis Mobley (1844-1922), Isabelle Anthony, Lena Rhoden & A.J. Mobley*



*Annie Mae 1910 and Donald 1913-1966*



*A. J. & Lucy Mobley  
Restaurant owned by Annie Mae  
& Russie Thrift in Whitehouse  
(home cooking & great prices)*



*Russie & Annie Mae (Mobley) Thrift  
Son of Moses Thrift - daughter of A.J. Mobley*



*William Charlton, Jesse Leroy "Lee", Lewis Walton Mobley  
(1881-1950), Nellie E. (Thrift) holding Luther Leon, Leta  
Agnes & Earl Franklin*



*Lee  
Mobley  
Place,  
Corn  
Crib*

*Mobley Children  
L-R: Wendell, Verna, Annie Mae, Dorothy,  
Eunice & Grady; Jewel in front*





# MOBLEY



*Greg & Leon Mobley*



*John Edward Mobley (1841-1908)  
son of Edward Mobley & Judia (Judy) Scott*



*Frances Addie Mobley (1880-1957) wife of William Noah Waters,  
daughter of Levi E. & Hannah Caroline (Taylor) Mobley, Parents of  
Edith, Lee, Minnie, Vernon, Harold, Samuel & Lucy Waters*



*Georgia Anne Mobley  
(1888-1970) wife of John  
Council Gandy, daughter of  
Levi E. & Hannah Caroline  
(Taylor) Mobley, Parents  
of Floyd Council, Leslie  
Nolan, Chester Raymond,  
Eunice LaVerne, Dorothy  
Louise & Vera Edna*



*James Ellis Mobley  
(1898-), husband of  
Mae Staten, son of Levi  
E. & Hannah Caroline  
(Taylor) Mobley,  
Parents of Carlisle,  
Mildred & Rosemary*



*Carl Wendell Mobley  
(1928) son of Rufus  
Claude Mobley &  
Maude Chesser. Baker  
County Historian  
responsible for the  
Rootsweb for Baker  
County on Ancestry.com*





# POWELL



## FRONTIER PIONEER NEWSMEN

### Three Generations Of Powells

*The frontier pioneers of Baker County newspapers would be none other than the three generations of the Tate Powell family: Tate Powell, Sr., Tate Powell, Jr., and Ray Powell, son and grandson of the above.*

*While dozens of various newspapers were published in the county through the years, it is believed that the year the county was formed in 1861, the first newspaper was published in Sanderson, which was the county seat at the time.*

*But it was the arrival in 1905 of a young veteran of the Spanish-American War who changed the face of our news source in Baker County. Tate Powell, Sr., a native of Bradford County, was of Welsh ancestry. He purchased The McClenny Standard for \$500 the early part of 1905. Powell left McClenny for 12 years but returned in 1929, and purchased The Standard again and renamed it The Baker County Press. It listed Powell and Powell, Editors and Publishers. Tate Powell, Sr.'s second wife was Cecil Crews Harris Powell. She served as a reporter for the newspaper they started in 1929. The partnership between the Powell family lasted 32 years.*





P  
O  
W  
E  
R  
S

*Eloise  
Powers  
daughter  
of Mae  
and  
Sidney  
Powers*



# PREVATT



*William Kell Prevatt (1856-1939), son of James Prevatt & Sarah Williams  
Mary Lougenia Combs (1869-1932), daughter of James Combs & Martha Harvey*



*Lovie Starling Prevatt (1894-1975),  
Daughter of Roxie Prevatt - circa 1912*



*Jackson P. Pringle (1865-1937), son of  
David Pringle & Margaret Fouraker  
Emma Rebecca Carroll Pringle (1873-  
1950), married 29 Oct 1937 in Nassau Co.*

# PRINGLE



# RAULERSON



## *Cuyler Church of God, 1918*

*Front row L-R: Robert Raulerson, Agnes Raulerson, Unkn, Unkn, Little boy with black hat is Aaron Raulerson. Standing back of Aaron is Leslie Raulerson, baby is Gladys Raulerson Lauramore, holding baby is Gertie Knabb. Others unknown. Standing: Dan Raulerson, Wade Raulerson, Doll Yarbrough Raulerson, wife of Wade & Lovedy Raulerson, wife of Dan, J.C. Yarbrough - all others unknown.*



## *Hance Raulerson*

*Taken around 1900 at site of Florida's first cattle fever, tick dipping vat owned by the Barber family.*





# RAULERSON'S LANDING



this photo not actual photo of Raulerson's Landing

Two years before Florida became a state on February 2, 1843, William "Bill" Raulerson (born 1788 in Georgia) received authorization to operate a ferry across the North Prong of the big St. Mary's River. Bill and his wife, Elizabeth Moore, b. 1786 in North Carolina, daughter of Caleb and Unity Braley Moore resided near by. Elizabeth was half Indian who came to this area in 1814. The land and community that developed around it became known as Raulerson's Landing and renamed Baxter which still exists today in 2014. The couple's daughter Fannie married an Albritton and Isabel married Jesse Johns. Their son Westberry Raulerson, born 1818, married Elizabeth Canaday, a daughter of French Huguenot descendent John Canady. Son, William M. "Pink" Raulerson, born 1858, married America Dinkins. Today their clan numbers high in Baker County's population.

This country commissary was owned and operated in Baxter by George Raulerson, who owned a turpentine operation at Four Mile Camp. The windowless commissary store used kerosene lamps for light when the store was open for business. George (1891-1966), son of James and Mahalia Yarborough Raulerson and his wife Alma Knabb, (1894-1974) daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Sarah Brown Knabb, eventually moved to McClenny where they operated a grocery store at the corner of College and Main Street. They were married the 28 Dec 1911 and had nine children, Hubert (killed in WWII), Lorene, Opal, Myrtice, T.J., James, Violice, Sara and Gedone.



Cousins

Back row, L-R: Violice Raulerson, James Raulerson, J.D. Brown, Sara Raulerson, Faye Taylor, Shirley Combs, George Windle, Gedone Raulerson, Earl Brown, Eleana Taylor



George & Alma Raulerson





*Lonnie & Bessie (Benton) Rewis*

*Taylor Country Store  
The Old Country Store at Taylor, Oklahoma and  
Operated by Went Rewis*



# REWIS

*Lonnie Rewis Sr, James Went, Chub,  
Lonnie Jr, Streeter & Toney Burssa*





# RHODEN



Isham Robert Rhoden  
(1857-1938) son of Isham John  
Rhoden & Amy Ellen Cathcart



Mary Catherine  
Mobley Rhoden (1862-1942),  
daughter of Edward Mobley/  
Judy Scott - wife of Isham Robert  
Rhoden



Walter R. Rhoden son of  
Isham R & Mary Catherine Rhoden &  
Bertha "Bertie" Sweat daughter of Abner  
Sweat & Fannie Burnsed



Hardy R. Rhoden (1878-1944) &  
Caroline "Carrie" Hogan (1887-1970),  
Wedding day 28 Feb 1901, Charlton  
Co, GA, son of Hansford Rhoden &  
Nancy Johns, father of Violet, Paul,  
Lily, Lossie, Valley, Rosa, Ethel, Mirtie,  
Fred, Belle, Edwin L, Joshie & Ellie



Hardy R. Rhoden (1878-1944) & Floyd Bennett (1910-1969) on  
annual trip to Little Rock, AR, Fred Rhoden & son George Wray on ox





Walter Rhoden (son of Isham Robert Rhoden & Mary Catherine Mobley), wife Bertie, children: Sophie, Esther, and Violet in 1913.



Willie Rhoden (1904-1968) & Lee Yarbrough (1899-1979)



Lacy Dewey Rhoden (1895-1969) & Pencie Crews Rhoden (1900-1979), son of Isaac Rhoden - daughter of Burton Calvin Crews



Sophia Rhoden, born 1909 to Walter Robert Rhoden (son of Isham Robert Rhoden and Mary Catherine Mobley, grandson of Isham John Rhoden who served in the 8th FL company during the Civil War) and Bertie Sweat (daughter of Abner Sweat and Fannie Burnsed). Sophia married Ebbie Cottle in 1930.



Mabel Rhoden future wife of Albert B. Johnson

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# RHODEN



*Elenore Ellen "Lena" Rhoden Thompson (1896-1991)  
daughter of Isham R & Mary Catherine  
wife of 1) Lester Taylor 2) Charles Cooper Thompson*



*Edward R. Rowe, husband of Neta Alta  
Rhoden - married 27 Jan 1916*



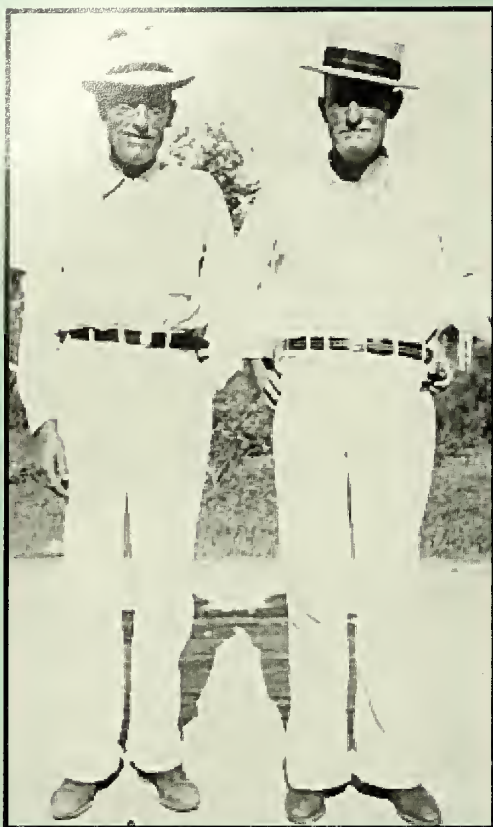
*Effie Rhoden Williams  
Daughter of Isham R & Mary Catherine*



*Ruby Rhoden Moreland*







*Jim and Frank Rhoden c. 1920*



*Nellie Ellen Garrett (1902-1953) & a girl named Lula. Nellie was the daughter of G.W. Garrett & Sarah Caroline Thrift. Wife of James Ed Rhoden*



*Martha Dugger-Starling, Netta Rhoden-Rowe, Addie Rhoden-Dugger*

# R H O D E N



*Paul Rhoden, Edward Wray Crockett, III on right arm, Sharron Hiers on left arm. Paul returned from the Army Air Force in 1946, and bought Crockett's Drug Store. He attended U. of Florida and became the 1st degreed Pharmacist in Baker County & owner of Paul's Rexall Drug Store*



*Martha Ann "Mattie" Rhoden Powers (1875-1960), daughter of Hansford Duncan Rhoden & Martha Ann Mobley*



*Dan Rhoden*



# RHODEN



*Katie Rhoden & The Group*



*Leon Rhoden, (1904-1936) son of William M. Rhoden and America Arnold. Died Chiefland, FL, buried Taylor cemetery*



*William M. Rhoden & America Arnold  
parents of: Ceborn (1889-1963), Hansford (1894-1924), Mitchel (1896-1975), Nancy (1898-1992), Daniel (1900-1983), Henry (1900-1968), Clifford Sr. (1903-1959), Leon (1904-1936), Alma (1909-1959) and Katy Rhoden(1911- )*



*Backrow: Banche, Flo, Daisy, Eunice, Gladys & Jim Rhoden  
Front row: Lloyd, Wendell, Francis, & Agnes Rhoden (in front of Jim), & Carlton Rhoden crawling on the ground.  
ca. 1937-1938 (family reunion)*



# RHODEN SISTERS



*Lettie Rhoden Thomas  
sister of Roxie and  
both were daughters  
of Frank & Sarah  
Bennett Rhoden*

*Roxie Rhoden Taylor  
(1918-1938), killed in  
a fatal car crash with  
her newlywed husband  
Earl Taylor on their  
wedding night*



# RICHARDSON



**Richardson Family Picture taken c. August, 1909, at family home in Sanderson, FL**

*Front Row - left to right, W. H. (Bill) Richardson, Wilce Richardson, Sevilla Richardson (later married a Green), & Molicy Richardson. Back Row - left to right, Alice Richardson Roberts, Clifford Roberts (infant), Allie Richardson Coleman, Ida Richardson Coleman, George Richardson (father), Molinda Cook Richardson (mother), Annie Richardson Wester, Sadie Lavonia (Green) Richardson, Lecy Molinda Richardson Rhoden/Kirkland, (infant) Robert Lacy Richardson (child) & Ellis Stephen Richardson*



# ROBERTS



*Jonathan Knight Roberts  
(1826-1907) husband of  
Mary Adeline Alford*



*Mary Adeline (Alford) Roberts  
(1836-1920) wife of J.K. Roberts*



*Lapina Roberts  
daughter of  
Jonathan Knight  
Roberts & Mary  
Adeline Alford*



*William Parker Roberts (1865-  
1947) son of Jonathan Knight  
Roberts & Mary Adeline Alford*



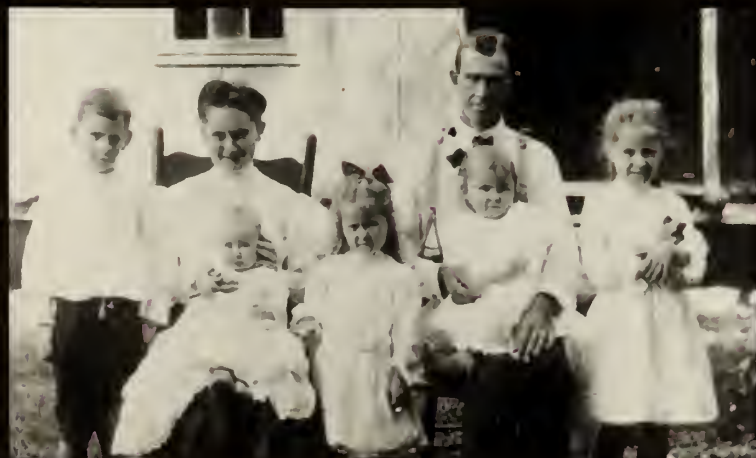
*Aaron Roberts  
son of Jonathan Knight  
Roberts & Mary  
Adeline Alford*



*Thomas Henry Roberts, wife Georgia Lowe, father  
J.K. Roberts & children Maude, Ella, Roy & Jesse*



*Children of William Parker  
Roberts & Isabel Bryant  
Arthur, Blanche & Bertha*



*Aaron Roberts,  
wife Clair &  
children  
L-R Ernest, Irene,  
Josephine, Gladys  
& Irma*



# ROBERTS



Emily (Greene) (1854-1929) and her husband Nathaniel Roberts, early Sanderson residents descend from a long line of Baker County settlers (1820-1830s). Emily was the daughter of Indian warrior Elisha Greene and his wife Elizabeth Driggers (1825-1906) who settled south of Sanderson. The Robert's family were farmers who cooked without recipes, but one substance they ALWAYS had on their table was stewed tomatoes. They served them for example at breakfast with grits, at lunch with pork and rice and "supper" with fried chicken. Emily canned tomatoes from her garden

all summer. When she opened a jar of her tasty tomatoes of which the family never tired, she would often add a little flour to thicken. Emily would sometimes add sliced okra or onions, green peppers or fresh corn all grown in her garden. The Roberts grew all types of peas and beans, also canned and stored for eating throughout the year. Emily would sometimes add corn on the cob to cook on top of her peas. It gave the tender corn another flavor. She would add whole okra pods to her pot of collards just before the collards were tender enough to eat. She often added pork ribs to cook in with her turnip greens. Mustard was flavored with white hog bacon. Emily's table was always filled with piping hot biscuits or golden corn pone. The couple is buried in Greene's Creek Cemetery south of Sanderson. Their grandson, Brantly Harrison Fraser, son of Thomas and Rosie (Roberts) Fraser handmade and engraved their concrete memorial stones.

In the photo above, left to right: Emily Greene Roberts holding her granddaughter Louise who is her daughter Allie (Johnson's) baby, her son, Preston Roberts, Perry (Allie's son) daughter Allie (Johnson), Vernice (Allie's daughter) and son Will Roberts. The Robert's home, as was many of the pioneers, stood high off the ground. The family wrapped their homemade butter in sacks and placed in a hole beneath the house to avoid melting. Often Indians would sneak up at night, despite the barking dogs, and dig the butter out to eat themselves. Due to no electricity the family would often leave the farm on Saturday and travel to Sanderson by mule and wagon, (an all day trip) where the early morning train would deliver blocks of ice to residents. The family would wrap the ice in thick sacks to avoid melting and place in the underground hole beneath the house and have as a treat iced cold tea for Sunday dinner or to serve when friends and neighbors dropped by. The early pioneers were resourceful and frugal. Nothing went to waste as a use was found for everything.



Preston Roberts (son of Enoch & Emily) & wife Beatrice



Enoch Nathaniel Roberts 15 Aug 1856 - 16 Jul 1934  
Emily (Greene) Roberts 17 Apr 1854 - 2 Jan 1929



# ROBERTS

*and related Hill family*



*Children: Joe Roberts, Roy Hill (George's son), Leo. Seated: Edna, Thaddeus, Margaret, Janie Hill.  
Standing: Mary Hill (wife of George), Alice, George Hill, Tommy Roberts, Mabel Roberts, Ella Hill Roberts, Marie  
Roberts, Ida, Nellie Hill Maddock, Charlie, Fonso Jones (Ida's stepson)*



*Sherod Roberts & wife Cola Williams*

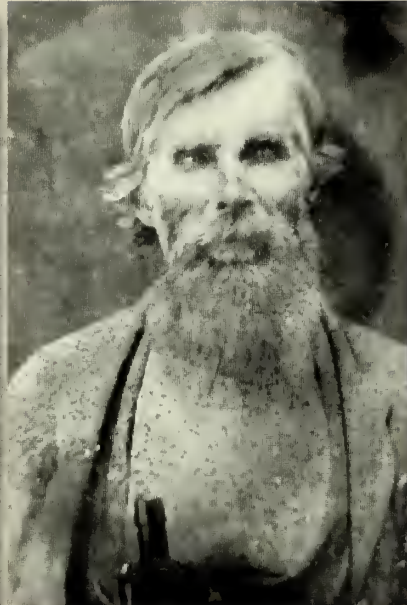


*Osias Francis Roberts &  
wife Myrtle Garrison*





Robert L. Rowe (1839-1917)  
Lost Grave Co. K, 2nd Florida  
Calvary, CSA



Edward Roger Rowe (1818-1894),  
husband of Eliza Frances Tanner  
(1820-1895), Veteran of 2nd  
Seminole War - birth McIntosh,  
Liberty Co., GA



Edward Roger (1818-1894) & Eliza  
Frances Tanner (1820-1895) Rowe  
In Nassau Co. 1838-73, then to Baker Co. Was  
an old time doctor & "bleeder" - Was wounded  
in a gun battle near Hilliard - whipped a big  
man with a fence rail after he was old - lent  
money for profit - cattleman



LaVilla Pendarvis Rowe, (1846 -  
1918), wife of Robert L. Rowe



Charity Rowe  
Drawdy



Charity Rowe Drawdy (1840-1906) & Cornelius  
"Neal" Drawdy ca. 1861, daughter of Edward  
Rowe  
& Eliza Tanner



Ed Rowe Jr.

Ed Rowe

# ROWE





**John Rowe**



*Julia Ann Bohannon-Fouraker, wife of John M. Rowe. She was born a Bohannon but she and a sister (orphans) were reared by a Fouraker family.*



**Jesse Rowe (1885)**  
son of John Rowe & Julia Ann (nee Pendarvis, born a Bohannon)



**Ed Rowe**



**Ed Rowe**

# ROWE



*Martha Rowe Hunt, mother of Othis Hunt*



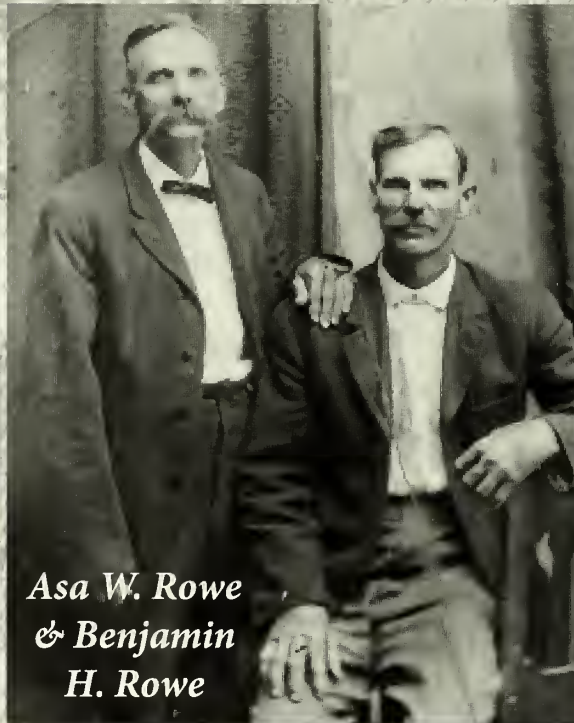
**Mattie Francis Rowe Fraser,**  
(1876 -1955), buried in Woodlawn Cemetery

Edward "Ed" Rowe, son of John M. and Julia Ann (Bohannon Pendarvis) Rowe. Ed and brother Jess were orphaned when their father was killed at a frolic near the Rowe Settlement in Nassau County between the present Hilliard and Brandy Branch. The boys and their mother were taken in by their grandfather Edward Roger "Ed" Rowe. They moved to Baker County in the 1870's. The boys re-moved to Miami in the first decades of the the 20th century and remained there until their deaths. Ed is buried in Miami.





*Asa William Rowe (1852-1913)*



*Asa W. Rowe  
& Benjamin  
H. Rowe*



*Benjamin Hopkins Rowe  
(1857-1935)  
married (1) Emeline (1859-  
1897), (2) Emma Jane  
Lauramore (1871-1944)*



*Mary Leah (nee Barber) Rowe (1858 - 1943),  
daughter of Isaiah & Elizabeth (nee Thompson)  
Barber and wife of Asa William Rowe. Asa & Mary  
Leah's son Frank is standing by her. He married  
Maude Britt. Frank and Maude's daughter Irene is  
with them. Irene married Ike Shepard and the child  
is Ike and Irene's son Warren.*



*Emma Jane Lauramore Rowe (1871-1944)*



# ROWE



# ROWE



*Tal & Waldo Rowe & Bessie Rowe Fraser*



*Nettie Elizabeth Rowe  
(1887-1978)*

*Susie Clayton & Nettie  
Rowe*



*Bessie Rowe Fraser, Arthur William Rowe, Nettie Rowe,  
Alma Rowe, Waldo Rowe*

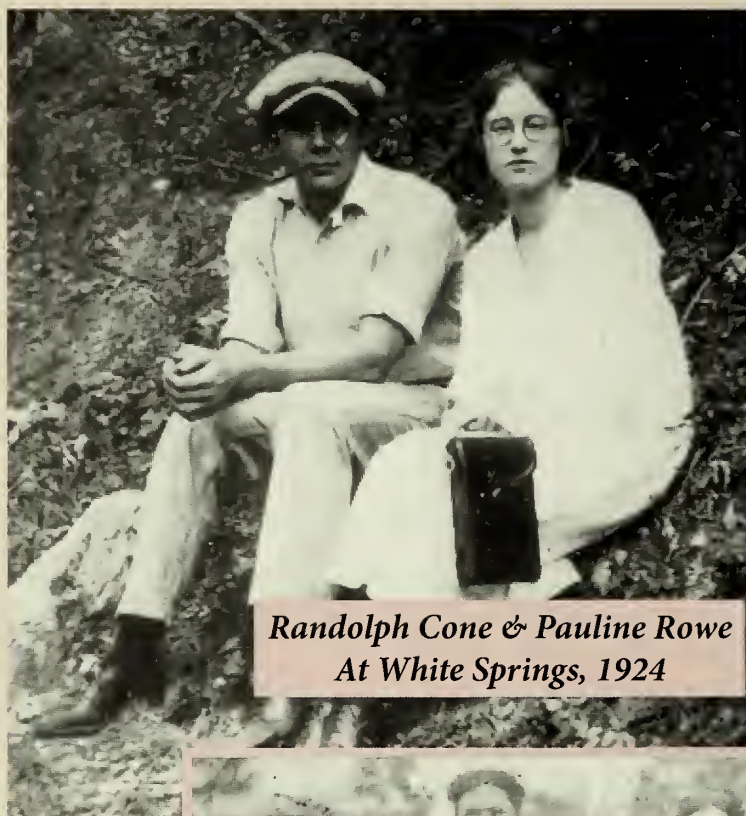


*Nettie Rowe (1918)*





*Marjory, Lucille & Jim Rowe*



*Randolph Cone & Pauline Rowe  
At White Springs, 1924*

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*Lucille, Minnie B., Jimmy, Marjorie Rowe (1935)*



*Belle Bennett, Alma Rowe, Nettie Rowe, Rosa Bair Worley  
Alma & Nettie were unmarried daus of Asa William & Mary Leah  
(nee Barber) Rowe. Rose was the dau of Samuel Bair of Elkhart,  
Indiana and Harriett "Hattie" Barber. She married Clement "Clem"  
Worley of South Carolina*



*L-R: Clement Worley, Bessie Rowe Fraser, James Arthur  
Rowe, Rosa Bair Worley, Lewis Fraser*





*Irene & Marie Rowe*

# ROWE



*Louise,  
Marie,  
Irene,  
Mary  
&  
Edith  
Rowe*



*David Dee Rowe  
son of David  
Hagin Rowe &  
Emma Nelson*



*Louvilla Rowe*

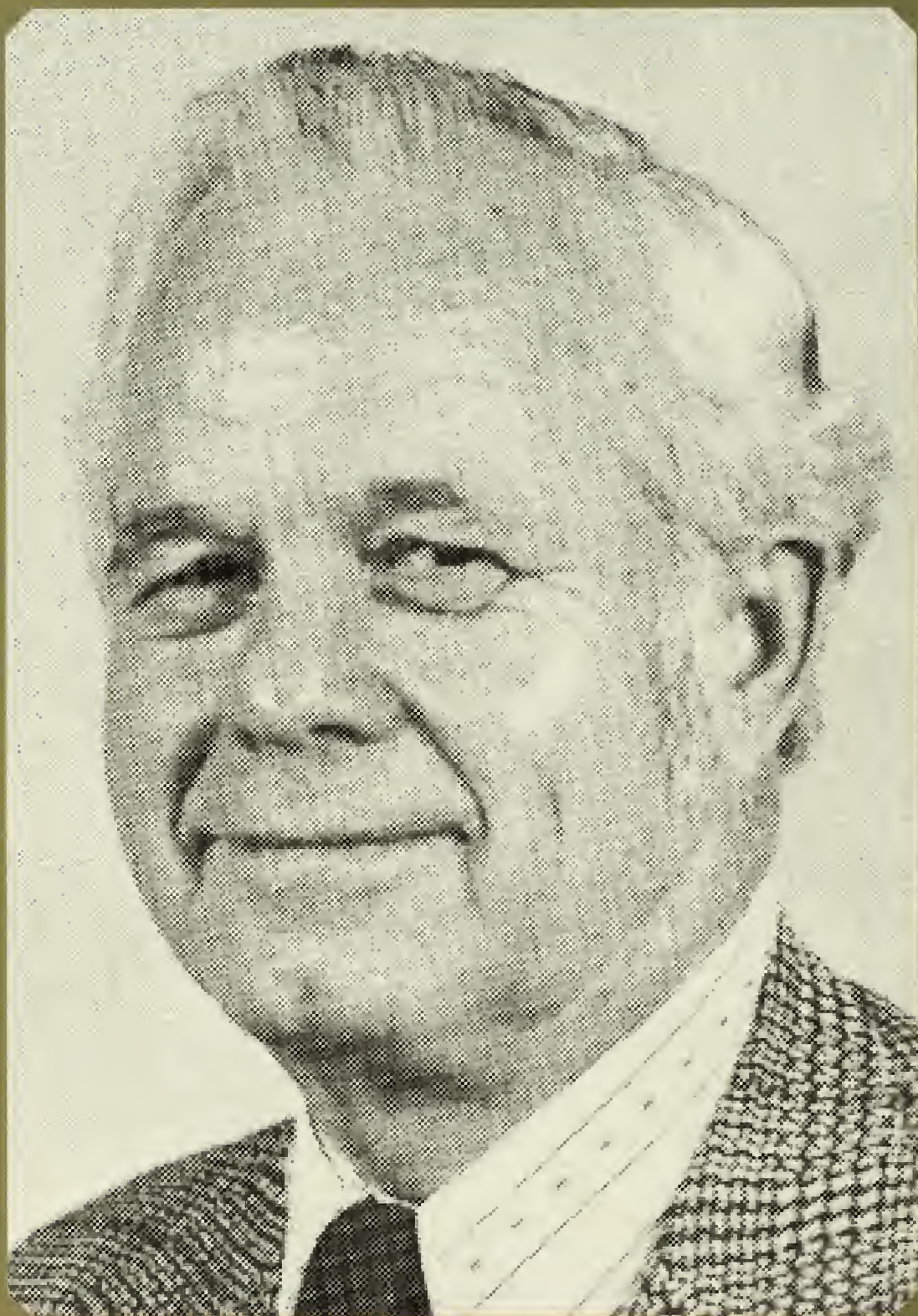
*Bessie & Alma Rowe (1915)*



*Myrtie Walker Rowe,  
McClenny Merchant*



# RUIS



*W.A. "Arly" Ruis (1914-1991)  
husband of Blanche Dugger*





*Mrs. Florida  
Celebes Sessions  
(1923), Great Grandmother  
of Vesta Turner*



*Ina Sessions  
Williams & Lester  
Williams*



*Williams/Shuey/  
Sessions Home*

*Neva  
Turner  
& Roberta  
Sessions  
(1924)*



*Roberta  
Sessions &  
Vesta Turner,  
first cousins,  
Glen St. Mary  
Nursery  
(1924)*

# SESSIONS





*Mosh Hicks, John Snowden, Oscar Theodore Sumersill, Luie Johns, John Lane, John Stafford, Nathan Fouraker, Bertie Sumersill, Frankie Higginbotham Hunt, Berte Higginbotham Hagan, Susan Fouraker Bardin, Lue or Sarilda Sumersill, Zella Fouraker Young, Mattie Lane, Maggie Lane, Henry Pringle, Lonil Stokes, Lester Sumersill, David Fouraker, Mary Fouraker Thomas, Fay Stokes, Julie Stokes Braddock, Ethel Morgan Fouraker, Irma Sumersill, Alice Fouraker Stafford, Gertrude Fouraker Stafford, Eustace Stokes, Lissie Lane, Hollie Sumersill, Andrew Stafford, Willie Fouraker, Oscar Sumersill, Pasco Fouraker, William Lane, Allen Fouraker, Henry Sumersill, Oscar Sumersill, John Sumersill, Luke Lane, Raymond Fouraker, Irma Sumersill, Oreaides Stafford, Willis Stafford, Theodore Sumersill, Lester Stokes*



*Reid & Cleo Stafford*



*Clementine Cook Stafford  
wife of John Riley Stafford, b.  
18 Aug 1860, d. 25 Sept 1909*



*Willis & Alice Stafford & Family  
Willis Harrison Stafford, b. 1 May 1891, d. 19 April  
1941 (son of John Riley & Clementine Stafford)  
with wife Alice Fouraker Stafford*



*Edgar Stafford*

# STAFFORD



# STARLING



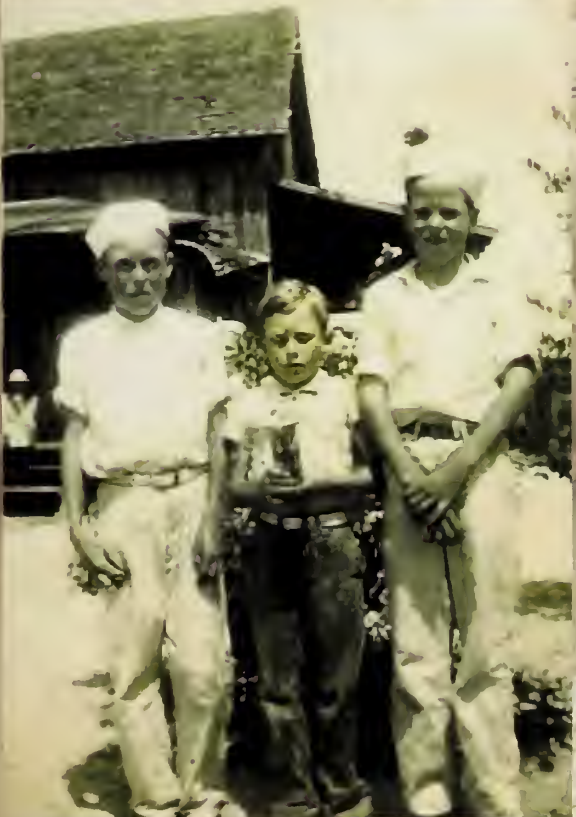
*John Benjamin Starling  
(1867-1930), Julia Ann  
Williams (1865-1916)*



*Benjamin Levy Starling & wife Margaret  
Moates, Lady far left, back row - Julian  
Harris Starling Burnsed (1843-1915),  
Mother of John B. Starling*



*Manning Starling (1881-  
1963) & wife Addie Davis  
(1908-1987) son of Joseph  
& Margaret Starling -  
daughter of Ozzie Davis  
(1881-1949) & Pearl Green  
(1887-1970)*



*Elmo "Buck" & John "Red" Starling &  
Robert Hodges Jr.*



*Manning Starling (1881-1963) & wife Addie Davis (1908-1987),  
son of Joseph & Margaret Starling - dau. Ozzie Davis (1881-1949)  
& Pearl Green (1887-1970)*



# STEELE



*Earl Leroy Steele  
married Mabel  
Edna Brown  
23 Jan 1918,  
worked on The  
Taber Nursery*



*Lucy Mikel, Earl Steele &  
Dorothy Steele*



*Earl & Mabel had one daughter, Dorothy Eleanor Steele. She was born May 19, 1919, & married Frank Herbert Camplejohn on June 29, 1940. They married on the Taber Nursery, where she was born and raised.*



*Earl Steele  
driving for the  
Taber Nursery*



# STOKES



William  
Newton Stokes  
born Nov 1846, St.  
George, GA, died 18 Jul  
1923, buried at Boone  
Creek Cemetery, Son of  
Elbert G. Stokes and  
Courtney Crews  
Stokes

Levin Edgar Stokes  
born 29 Nov 1881 St.  
George, GA, d. 28 Jul 1954, buried  
at Boone Creek Cemetery. Son of  
William Newton Stokes and Sarah  
Tomlinson Stokes. Husband of  
Leah Elizabeth Osteen



Beryl Newton Stokes,  
born 16 Apr 1908 St. George,  
GA, Son of Ed Stokes & Leah Osteen,  
Husband of Mary Ethel Parker

Children and Grandchildren of William  
Newton Stokes. Back Row (L to R) - these are brothers and sisters  
of Levin Edgar all buried at Boone Creek: Haughtie Stokes (m. Andrew Green;)  
Herman Oscar Stokes (m. Parshel Crews and lived in Baldwin, FL); Walter Sherod Stokes  
(m. Mollie Osteen - 1/2 sister to Leah Elizabeth Osteen). Front Row (L to R) - Mollie Osteen  
(dau. of Boss Osteen and Candacy Tomlinson); Roland Stokes (son of Levin Edgar Stokes and  
Leah Elizabeth Osteen); Levin Edgar Stokes; Beryl Newton Stokes (son of Levin Edgar  
Stokes); Elizabeth "Lizzie" Stokes (m. Spencer F. Canady and is buried at  
North Prong) (Lizzie is the sister of Levin Edgar)



# STOKES



*Vince Stokes & brothers*  
Sons of Anna C. Alford & Edward Y. Stokes



*Flossie Stokes*



*Frankie Stokes*



*Ellen Stokes & Grace Williams*

*Edward Clifton "Catfish" Stokes  
and to the right is part of his  
"moonshine still"*

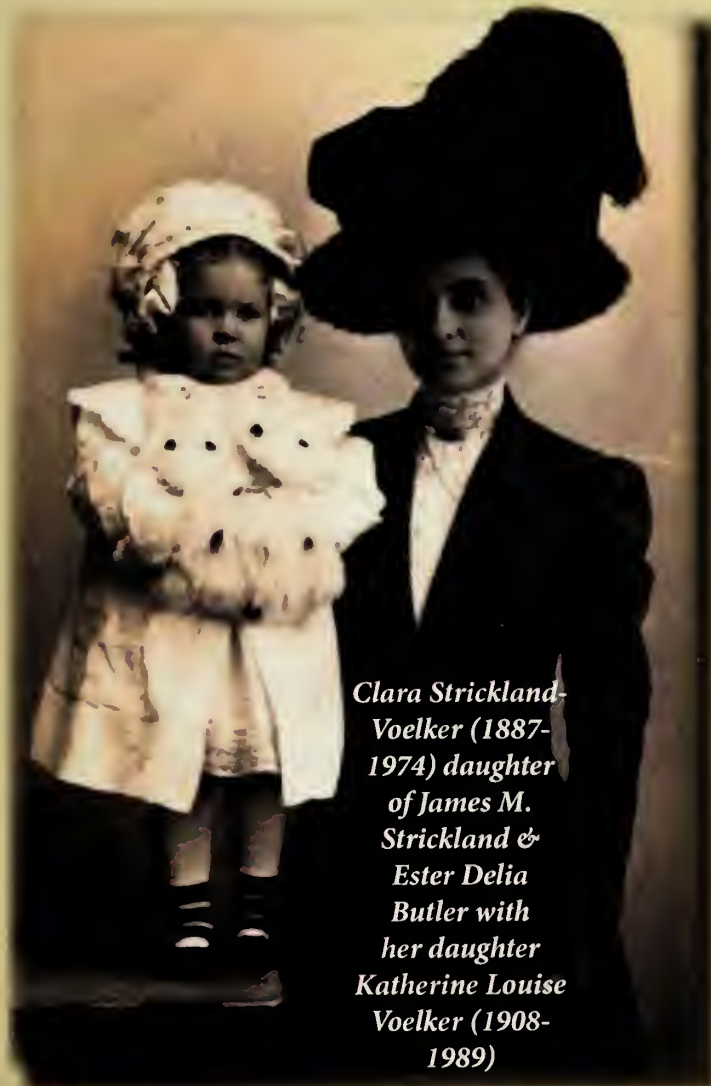




**Dora Strickland  
Zipperer Mothershed**  
(daughter of James and Esther  
Strickland) Family Members

1. Maydell
2. Esther Zipperer
3. Dora
4. James Mothershed
5. Douglas
6. Min Drawdy
7. Lilly Bass
8. Leonard Haizlip
9. Edith
10. Margaret Zipperer
11. Clarence Bass
12. Milledge Bass
13. Walter Drawdy
14. Cecil Drawdy

This picture was owned by Phyllis  
Zipperer, widow of Kenneth, son of Dora.



**Clara Strickland-  
Voelker (1887-  
1974) daughter  
of James M.  
Strickland &  
Ester Delia  
Butler with  
her daughter  
Katherine Louise  
Voelker (1908-  
1989)**

**History of James M. Strickland (1838 - 1889) married Esther Delia Ann  
Butler (1857 - 1932) in McClenny, Baker Co., FL, on 3 July 1873.**

**Children:**

1. Lillie Olive (1874 -) m. Milledge Bass and had the following children:  
Edith, Mildred, Clarence (1894 - 1965)
2. Minnie Lee (1875 -) m. Walter H. Drawdy and had the following children:  
Cecil (1898 - 1972), Edna, Tito, Nettie (1893 - 1975) m Mr. Parker and their  
children were: Maydell, Douglas
3. Annie Gertrude (1877 - 1926) m. Luther B. Williams
4. Dora Virginia (1880 -) m. Charles R. Zipperer (1875 - 1970) and their children  
were: Esther, Margaret, Dora Virginia (1880 -), then m. Mr. Mothershed and their  
child was: James (1908 - 1988)
5. Venie (1883 - 1945) m. Wm. Thomas Fowler and had the following children:  
Anna Loleta (1908 - 1991), she never married, Wm. Thomas, Jr. (1914 - 1971)  
m. Julia May Johann and their child is  
Judith Ann (me, 1950 -)
6. Alverta (Vertie) Pauline (1885 - 1933)  
m. Eddie Drawdy (- 1901) and their  
child was: Agnes Lee (1899 - 1987),  
Alverta then married Thomas J. Barton  
(- 1950), Alverta later was with Wesley  
Eugene Matthews, Sr. (1900 - 1974) and  
their children were: Wesley Eugene, Jr.,  
Dorothy Ann (aka "Dot") (1928 -)
7. Clara N. (1887 -) m. Arthur Voelker  
(1884 - 1964) and their child was:  
Katherine Louise (1908 - 1989) (she  
never married), Katherine Louise  
Voelker (1908 - 1989), Clara then  
married Robert N. Henry (1882 - 1947)
8. Eva James (1889 -). She was named  
after her father, James M. Strickland,  
because she was born after his death.,  
Eva was married 4 times: m. Frank  
Brickman (1900 - 1891), m. W. S.  
Askew, m. Walter J. Dowling (1880 -),  
m. A. S. Powers



**Thomas J. Barton (1878-  
1950) & Vertie Strickland-  
Drawdy-Barton (1884-1933)**

# STRICKLAND





Abner Jackson (1862-1920) & Easter Ann "Fannie" (Burnsed) (1865-1941) Sweat Family, son of Freeman Sweat & Sarah Crews - daughter of James M. Burnsed & Eliza Moates. Children: Levada born 1885, Beritie born Nov. 1887, Larney/Lonnie born about 1892, Effie born 1895. There was another child not in the picture, James 1899



Franklin Marion Sweat (Feb. 24, 1867-Feb. 18, 1934), Emma Alice (Skeels) Sweat (Jul 24, 1876-Aug 18, 1963) & son Eddie Randolph (Sep 23, 1894-Oct 19, 1970), All buried in Atlanta, GA - Photo ca. 1898



Mary "Molly" Sweat (1876-1956), Daughter of Jackson & Mary Thompson Sweat - Wife of George Washington Sweat (1st Cousin)



Nella Sweat (1894- ) Daughter of Jackson & Mary Thompson Sweat, Wife of Union Robinson

# SWEAT



Perry (1880-1956) & Honor Laramore Sweat (1889-1979), Son of Jackson & Mary Thompson Sweat



Florida (Sweat) Thompson born August 10, 1882 died April 1954, parents are Jackson Sweat of Baker County and Mary Thompson of Charlton Co, Ga., married Silas Thompson in Baker County, Florida July 29, 1902



# TABER



*Home of George Taber*



*George L. Taber, Sr. (1854-1929) & daughter-in-law, Emily Hughes Taber, founder of Glen St. Mary Nursery*



*Office of Glen St. Mary Nurseries 1882*



*Office of Glen St. Mary Nurseries Company, 26 February 1921*

*Since 1881, the Taber family has provided jobs for the citizens of Baker County. For countless of our pioneering citizens it was their first opportunity for employment and money-paying job. Now, instead of trading their chickens and eggs for staples at the local grocery, they could purchase their needs with actual "cash". Many couples met and fell in love while employed at the Glen St. Mary nursery and generations of their descendants followed their forbearers as employees. For years, the Taber family has brought fame and fortune to our community and today they are still sharing their bounty with the citizens of our county. The Taber's often hold events on the beautiful nursery property and open their home for nostalgic tours where there is truly a masterful display of times past. The special events include a taste of recipes passed down from generations. Our community is blessed to have the Taber family with all their elegance and grace to carry on the traditions of their fathers and share their unique slant on the past with us today.*



# TANNER



*Polly Ann Tanner Pledger sister to Ben Tanner*

*Name: Benjamin Hopkins (Ben) Tanner*

*Suffix: CSA*

*Sex: M*

*Birth: 1846 in GA*

*Death: 9 DEC 1890 in Baker Co FL*

*Census: 1880 Baker Co. FL*

*Census: 1850 Duval Co FL*

*Burial: Woodlawn Cemetery,*

*Baker Co FL*

*Regiment Name 1 Florida Cavalry.*

*Side Confederate*

*Company B*

*Soldier's Rank\_In Private*

*Soldier's Rank\_Out Private*

*American Civil War Soldiers*

*Enlistment Date: 15 Oct 1861*

*Enlistment Place: Jacksonville, Duval*

*County, Florida*

*Side Served: Confederacy*

*State Served: Florida*



*Ellie Tanner daughter of Ben*



*James Wesley and Charity Mary Jane Tanner Keen's home on Ratliff Rd., Nassau Co FL, and some of their 14 children. Charity is on the left side. Charity Mary Jane Tanner (1856 - 1938), daughter of Joshua and Eliza Bradley Tanner. This is a younger photo of her on the right in the oval. She looks maybe 45 here.*







*Tobitha Lee Taylor (1823-1906)  
daughter of James Lee & Cinder-  
ella Sellers, wife of Lewis Tillman  
Taylor*



*Harry Taylor (1891-1970)  
son of Lewis Tillman Taylor, Jr.*



*Loca Gaskins probably daughter of  
Elizabeth E. Taylor (daughter of  
Lewis T. Taylor) & William H. Gaskins*



*Tom Taylor*

# **TAYLOR**

*and related families*



*Lonnie B. Taylor  
(1904-1993)*



*Bessie Taylor*



*Flornan Phillips, Carrie & Bessie Taylor*



# THOMAS



*Ada Drawdy Thomas  
daughter of Cornelius  
Drawdy & Chairty Rowe.  
She married James Smith  
Thomas 18 Oct 1894*



*Aaron D. Thomas (1846-1933)  
& Georgia Ann Durrance (1861-  
1923)*



*Edgar March Thomas (1879-1932)  
son of Walter Thomas & Maria Lucinda Frial, husband of Edna Belle Kickliter*



*John Allen Thomas (1876 - 1953)  
son of John Thomas & Sarah Tabitha  
Rowe. Husband of Nora Davis, married  
December 26, 1894, Constable for Baldwin,  
FL, from 1935 until 1953*



*James Smith Thomas - 1873-1921  
son of Dixon & Zilphann, husband of Ada Drawdy - Constable in Baldwin,  
killed in line of duty, father of Lacy Glenn, Mary Pauline & Edna Beatrice,  
buried Brandy Branch cemetery*



# THOMAS



*Nora (Davis) Thomas (1877 - 1966) & Jennie Lou Villa (Thomas) Suggs (1898 - 1990) wife and daughter of John Allen Thomas. Baldwin, FL, April 1964*



*John Mitchell Thomas, Lillie Delilah (Leigh) Thomas holding dau. Hattie Mae, Susan Frances (Thomas) Davis [sister to John], Mary Emily, Paul Charles, Luke & Jesse Riley Thomas, 1st cousin to James S. Thomas (photo ca. 1913 Stokeville, Charlton Co., GA)*



*James Smith, Lacy Glenn, Mary Pauline, Edna Beatrice & Ada (Drawdy) Thomas. Photo taken in April 1903 in Glen St. Mary, Florida*



*Edna (Thomas) Jones, Lacy Thomas & Pauline (Thomas) Kirby - Sept. 1944*



*Pauline and Edna Thomas*



# THOMPSON



*Moses Thompson (1806-1882)  
First person buried in  
Woodlawn Cemetery*



*Mary Wells Williams Thompson and  
grandson Roe Thompson*



*John Oliver Thompson: A  
native of Edgewood, SC. Came  
to Florida in 1852. He was  
a merchant and lumberman  
over much of Northeast  
Florida. He married Eliza  
Frances "Frank" Rowe.*



*Mary McCarthy and James Monroe "Roe"  
Thompson (1845-1936)*



*Gussie Thompson Wells*



*Vessie Thompson*



*John & Frank  
Thompson*



# THOMPSON



**William Carroll Thompson**

Born September 23, 1866 in Taylor, Baker, FL.  
 Son of William J. Thompson and Mary (Williams)  
 Thompson, Husband of Martha (Combs)  
 Thompson — married May 4, 1890 in Baker Co.  
 Father of William J. Thompson, (1890's - 1970's),  
 Charles C. Thompson Sr., Lossie E. (Thompson)  
 Boyle, Edith Mae (Thompson) Hicks and Irma  
 (Thompson) Hicks. He Died November 4, 1933  
 at his home in McClenny. Mr. Thompson was  
 one of our most outstanding citizens, noted for  
 his integrity and honesty. He was elected County  
 Judge, holding this office four years. He was  
 elected Tax Assessor for two terms and Clerk of  
 Circuit Court for four terms, retiring from that  
 office in 1933 the same year he passed away.



**Charles Cooper Thompson  
 and wife Elenore Mae "Lena"  
 Rhoden (1896-1991)** She was  
 the daughter of Isham Robert  
 Rhoden and Mary Catherine  
 Mobley wife of 1- Lester Taylor  
 2- Charles C. Thompson Sr.



**Charlie Fabian Thompson**  
 Born in McClenny,  
 Florida, on 26 Oct 1902  
 to John Oliver Thompson  
 and Eliza Frances Rowe.  
 Charles Fabian married  
 Virginia Gumm. He passed  
 away on 15 Oct 1973 in  
 McClenny, Florida

**Charlie  
 Fabian  
 Thompson  
 (1902-1973)**





*Zilphia Hogan Thrift  
(1847-1918)  
daughter of Archibald  
Hogan & Zilphia  
Roberts who were true  
pioneers, wife of  
Leroy J. "Pomp" Thrift*



**THRIFT**



# THRIFT



*Moses T. "Mode" Thrift (1880-1938),  
Laura (Hunter) Thrift*

*Moses Thrift  
son of Leroy J. Thrift &  
Zilphia Hogan*

*Zilphia (Hogan) Thrift (1847-1918)  
Thrift & Grandchildren Russie & Effie*



*James W. Thrift (1866-1954), Son of Leroy J. Thrift & Zilphia  
Hogan. His brother Rufus Archibald "Rufe" was killed in line  
of duty during the Baxter Rebellion in Sept. 1904*



*Back L-R: Arch Thrift, Sunada Thrift, Spence Thrift, John  
Lauramore & Dan Thrift, Front L-R: Jeff Thrift, Willie Thrift,  
Etta Carpenter Thrift, Susan Yarbrough Thrift, Minnie Thrift  
Lauramore, Woodrow Lauramore. Taken in front of Susan &  
Rufus Thrift Home about 1918*

*Joseph O. "Jode" Thrift (1871-1955)  
son of Leroy J. Thrift & Zilphia Hogan*





Rufus Archibald "Rufe" Thrift (1869-1904), son of Leroy J. Thrift & Zilphia Hogan - husband of Susan Yarbrough. Baker County Deputy Sheriff, Killed in the line of duty during the "Baxter Rebellion" on Sept. 16th, 1904



Susan Yarbrough Thrift  
wife of Rufus Archibald  
"Rufe" Thrift



Arch Thrift 1897-1966  
(son of Rufus Archibald)



Sunada Thrift 1891-1978, daughter of Rufus Archibald



Spencer "Spence" Thrift (1895-1942)  
(son of Rufus Archibald)



Betty Combs Thrift  
wife of Spencer, and dau of Isaiah and  
Ellen Harvey Combs



Effie Mae Thrift  
(1903-1988)  
Daughter  
of Moses  
T. Thrift,  
Wife of  
Lynn A.  
Barnes

# THRIFT



# THRIFT



*Harry Thrift (1930-1994)  
son of Mose Thrift & Winnie Thomas*



*Russie & Annie Mae (Mobley) Thrift*



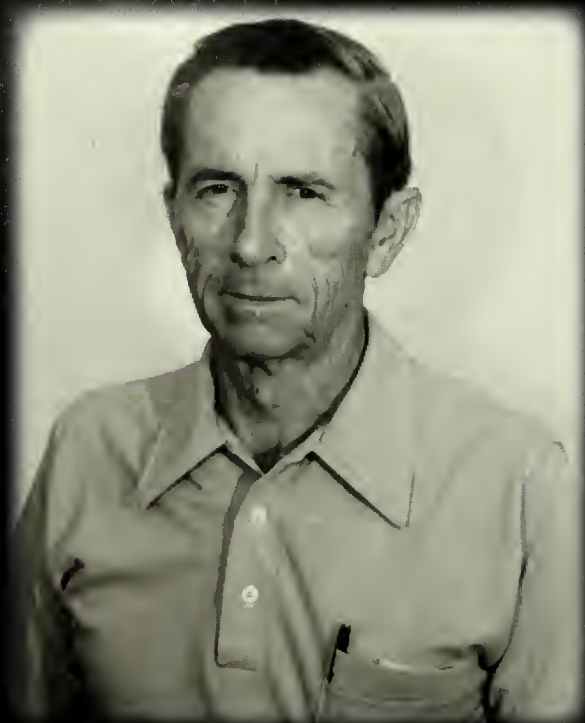
*George Thrift & Ethel Coleman*

*Sadie Mae Thrift Yarbrough (1910-1983)  
daughter of Mose T. Thrift - wife of James  
Corbett Yarbrough*



*Louise Thrift in front of Russie & Annie Mae's store*





*Lonnie Thrift (1914-1982)  
husband of Beatrice Stokes  
Mayor of McClenny (1975-1982)*



*Paul Thrift  
County Commissioner, 1960  
Sheriff (1966-1972)*



*Mildred & Evelyn Thrift - 1948 in long dresses  
daughters of Spencer & Betty (Combs) Thrift, the oval is when  
they were children*

# THRIFT





*L-R Standing: Marie Rowe, Irene Rowe, Mrs. Cone, Alice Milton, Minnie Milton, Rose Tyler, Nettie Ruth Rhoden. Sitting: Leta Powers, Pauline Rowe, Elizabeth Turner, Edith Fraser, Dorothy Barber & Irene Rhoden, 1925*

# PHOTOGRAPHY

In the early days of photography, photographers used daguerreotypist's process to have our likeness captured on a thin coating of silver. We were arranged in formal poses, usually on a raised platform that faced the sun, our head held firmly in place with a clamp to prevent any movement. The exposure required anywhere from several seconds to several minutes and thus very few of us attempted a smile. Even later when the exposure time had been reduced by other processes, sitting for the photographer was more often that a serious occasion. We were after all presenting ourselves as we wanted others to see us. Women often dressed in taffeta and silk, the men uncomfortable in stiff collars and suits they used for funerals and weddings. Many of the photographs were made by traveling photographers who passed through the country side. Even when the portraits that fill the pages of family albums are not identified, and many are not, they have value as social documents. They frequently reveal our pride in who we were and what we had done. They reveal the styles we worn, the poses we assumed, and the expressions on our faces. Together we reveal not only how we looked but how we lived and how we thought.



# TOWNSEND



*Lattice Blitch Townsend in front of Anna D. Dobson's store, Olustee, Florida*



*Built by Fuzzie Sparks  
for the Andrew  
Townsend family*



# TYLER



*Morris Reynolds,  
Karlie Tyler &  
Paul Rhoden*



## **KARLIE R. TYLER (1906-1985)**

*Only child of Albert (1873-1948) & Fannie R. (1883-1968) Tyler*

*Karlie was a career educator in Baker County. She spent most of her lifetime teaching English at Sanderson School. In later years, she was the county's visiting librarian. Miss Kyler never married. She fell in love with a colleague but circumstances beyond their control prevented their marriage although the two remained in love. One of her paintings was found inside the Tyler home after being purchased and renovated.*



*Built by Fuzzie Sparks for the Andrew Townsend family, the dwelling was renovated and later known as the "Tyler House" where Miss Karlie Tyler lived. Today it is known as Tiger Lilly Gardens*



# TURNER

*The Charles Turner family came to Baker County in May of 1869. Charles and wife, Martha Fraker, had six children: Walter, Irene, Edgar, Arthur, Serena & Charles. He was a Postmaster. His son Walter Monroe Turner, also a postmaster, married Lillian Elizabeth Sessions. Their children were: Ulphian Gray, Ernest Vasco, Evelyn, Frank, Rodney & Neva. His son Ernest Vasco Turner (1882-1960) married Gertrude Garrett. Their five children were Vesta May, Ernest Vasco, Elizabeth, Lillian & Iris. A lot of the Turner family attended the University of Florida.*

*Charlie Turner died 13 Jun 1872 at age 47, buried at an abandoned cemetery in Margareta. He was born in Durhamville, Oneida County, New York, son of Eli Turner & Lorena Sowle*



*Ernie V. Turner,  
University of Florida, 1903*



*Ernie Turner & Gertrude Garrett  
Wedding Picture  
Post Master McClenny 1920's*



*Rodney Turner*



*Vesta Turner  
(1924)  
On water  
tower  
overlooking  
Gator Pond,  
University of  
Florida*



*Vasco  
Turner  
at home  
(1923)*



*Elizabeth Turner*



# WALKER



*Albert James Walker (1876-1960), Ida Dobson (1883-1966), wife, Ida was the daughter of Elijah Dobson & Mary Jane Roberts*



*Elijah James Walker (1912-1981)*

*Lula Karelle Stonecypher (1919-2008), wife. Her store, Karelle's Town Shop, was at the time, the main women's clothing store in McClenny, Florida.*

*Mrs. Walker was well known in the community and one of the more successful businesswomen in Baker County. She operated her business until about 1989, when she sold the business and retired. Mrs. Walker was, at the time of her death, the oldest continuous member of the First Baptist Church of Glen St. Mary, having joined around 1946-47.*



*James Ira Walker, Eva Mae Dugger Walker & James Drew Walker (baby)*

## *Max and Elizabeth (nee Turner) Long's 1933 wedding First Methodist Church*



*Reportedly the largest such rites ever performed in Baker County.*

*The groomsmen were Vasco Turner, brother of the bride, Floyd Howell, Burdell Myrick of Chestnut, Illinois and Bascomb Bullard. The four bridesmaids were Mrs. Bascom Bullard, Baldwin, sister of the bride, Mrs. Paul Tanner, Jacksonville, cousin of the bride, Mrs. John Geitgey, Glen St. Mary, and Miss Thelma McLeod. The matron of honor, Mrs. Vesta Myrick of Chestnut, Illinois. The two little flower girls Iris Turner and Reva Elliott. The ring bearer was Joe Barber, the tiny son of C. M. Barber.*





# DR. WATSON

*Dr. John Ethelbert Watson (1906-1972),  
the first physician brought into the coun-  
ty by the citizens and was most beloved*



# WELLS



*Gussie, Frank,  
Johnny, Joe &  
Sheldon Wells*

*Frank Wells  
(below) on the right  
served as Mayor of  
McClenny*





# WESTER



*1924 McClenny Youth: Mary Lee Wester, Edith Blain, Elizabeth Turner, Lillian Turner and Marguerite Blair*



*Jim Wester*



*Bill Wheeler  
Old Tin Type Photo*

# WHEELER



# WIGGINS



*John Henry Wiggins &  
Lucreasy Whittemore*



*Jesse Wiggins (1903-1973) & Lucinda Combs Wiggins (1905-1969) and in the  
oval their baby Martha with her young parents*



# WILLIAMS



*Thomas William Williams husband of Ina Sessions Williams, father  
of Lester Williams both shown in oval*



*The Williams sisters  
bottom row: Mattie, Maidie, Lou Vernie.  
Top row: Linnie, Rosa, Altie*





*Helen Worley Kicklighter & Nettie Ruth Worley  
ca. 1916*



*Helen & Ruth Worley*



*Ruth Worley, Marie Rowe, Helen Worley*

**W  
O  
R  
L  
E  
Y**



*Rose Bair Worley*



# YARBROUGH



*James "Corbett" Yarbrough (1900-1984)  
son of Dennis David Yarbrough & Lillie Raulerson*



*Beulah Mae Yarbrough, daughter of James Corbett  
Yarbrough & Sadie Mae Thrift*



*David Arthur Yarbrough (1891-  
1976) & wife, Margaret I. "Maggie"  
Raulerson (1894-1976)*



*Ed Yarbrough with Baker County's  
First Taxi - 1946/7*



*David Jesse Yarbrough (1867-1948) &  
Arabelle Canady (1877-1942), son of  
Benj. Franklin Yarbrough & Mary Mill-  
er, daughter of John Milledge Canady &  
Sarah Ann Howell*





*David Browning (1812-1890) and Julia Ann Addison (1843-1918)*



*Nathan Harris son of George Harris  
& Rhoda Roberts*

## NOTABLE FAMILIES



*Nettie Roberts Dugger-Chalker,  
Mrs Newton &  
Walter A. Chalker  
Nettie wife of (1) Owen "Ode" Dugger  
(2) Walter A. Chalker*



*Alethia Elma Booth was  
born May 17, 1882 and  
died April 27, 1965 wife  
of Martin Evander Cole  
(1876-1945).*





*L-R: Grownups - Mattie Hodges Starling, Frances Griffis Starling, Tommie Starling, Maggie Starling Hodges, 3 babies in chair/stroller: Elmo Buck Starling, Rose Lee Starling Crews, Robert Hodges Jr. (known as Junior), 3 young boys in front: Romey Starling, Dick Starling, Macey Cute Starling -- photo taken 1923.*



*Mr. & Mrs.  
Bell*

## **AND OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS**



*Elvin & Pauline Hogan*



*Sarah Jane Griffis (1957) with some of her grandchildren. She married Joe "Sog" Griffis. Left to right are Ginger Cannon, Harvey McPherson, Wayne Griffis, Bonnie Griffis, Sarah, Earnie Mae Griffis and Frank Griffis*



# MY BAKER COUNTY ROOTS RUN DEEP



*(A special section written by Libby Ferrell)*



# MY BAKER COUNTY ROOTS RUN DEEP

## THE THOMPSON-TYSON and HIERS-KNABB FAMILIES

by

Elizabeth (Libby) Hiers Ferrell

### INTRODUCTION

Growing up in Macclenny in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s it seemed like Baker County was one large family. Everyone knew everyone and it seemed that practically everyone was related in some way. It wasn't until around 2003 when my husband and I started researching our families that I discovered just how many relatives I really had and just how deep my roots really ran throughout Baker County.

The material which follows is limited to my primary roots on my mother's side — the Thompson and Tyson families, and my father's side — the Hiers and Knabb families. Not included are those families which branch off my primary roots, many of which are deeply embedded in the development and history of Baker County, including the Brown, Dowling, Howard, Wiggins, Chisholm, Raulerson, Gainey, Smith, Chesser, Moates, Jones, Hicks, Green, Mathis, Williams, Johns, Rhoden, and McClenny families.

### MY MOTHER'S FAMILY THE THOMPSON-TYSON LINE

My mother's family line in Baker County dates to September 25, 1842 when **Jane Caroline Thompson**, my great-great grandmother, was born to Thomas W. Thompson and Dora Ann Beasley in an area which became part of Baker County in 1861 when the County was first established by the Florida Legislature. Her parents were from Georgia and moved to Florida just prior to her birth. Her mother's family has been documented back to 1630 in Lancaster, England. Jane died at the age of 99 on January 17, 1941 in Tallahassee and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny.

Jane Caroline never married but had two children that were fathered by **Jerimiah Walker, Jr.** whose family moved to the area from Georgia around 1850. Jerimiah's great grandfather was Isham Walker who was born in 1730 in Colleton County, South Carolina. Isham was married to Mary Carter whose grandfather, Moore Carter, was the sixth great-grandfather of Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States.

Since Jerimiah was married at the time and had other children, Jane Caroline declined to permit the children to carry the Walker name. A son, William Jasper, was given the name of Jane's brother, and a daughter was named Emerline



JANE CAROLINE THOMPSON



JERIMIAH WALKER, JR.

**William Jasper "Logan" Thompson** was born in Baker County on September 24, 1864 and died in Baker County on June 25, 1943. He married **Vicey Moates**, the daughter of David Moates and Elizabeth Burns, in December, 1889. Vicey was born on April 13, 1870 in what is now Baker County and died on January 30, 1949. Both she and William Jasper are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny.



William Jasper was a successful farmer in Taylor with a substantial number of chickens, hogs, cows and other livestock. Unfortunately In the late 1890s he suffered a stroke which forced him to give up farming.

In 1899 he moved his family to Macclenny where he bought a store and established a mercantile business which, over the years, became very successful. During this time he served on the Baker County Commission, including one year as its Chairman.

He and Vacey had ten children — Effie Louise, Annie, Rose Adaline, Lillian, Albert, David, Romey Edward, William Hampton, Monroe, Daisy Clarine, and my grandmother Mary Ella.

**Effie Louise Thompson** was born on September 22, 1911 in Macclenny, Florida and died on April 4, 2002 in Orange Park, Florida. She married **Charles Marshall Jones**. He was born on March 9, 1892 in Kentucky, and died in July, 1965 in Macclenny. Except for the later years of her life which were spent in a nursing home, she spent her entire lifetime as a resident of Macclenny.

Effie and Charles had six children — Wanda Gwynette, Charles, Elizabeth Louise, Robert Daniel, Norman Dale, and Marshall Barrymore.



WILLIAM JASPER AND VICEY MOATES THOMPSON

**Annie Thompson** was born in Baker County, Florida on August 29, 1900 and died on September, 1, 1980, also in Baker County. On December 19, 1916 she married **William Ode Hicks**. He was born on September 23, 1894 in Glen St. Mary, Florida and died on May 26, 1961 in Glen St. Mary. He worked for Glen St. Mary Nursery for a number of years.

Annie and Ode had five children — Nancy Lorena, Doris Mae, Mildred Daisy, Thelma Louise and William Ode, Jr.

**Rose Adaline Thompson** was born on August 28, 1907 in Baker County, Florida and died on September 1, 1971 in Tallahassee. She married **Joseph Seaborn Tyson** who was born on November 20, 1905 and died on April 3, 1933 in Tallahassee. Joseph was the brother of Edward Jasper Thompson, the husband of her sister Mary Ella. He worked for the State Road Department for a number of years. After his death she married **Harvey Hinton Pledger** who was born in September, 1903 in Jackson County, Florida and died on September 3, 1985 in Tallahassee.

Rose and Joseph had three children — Roseleigh, Juanita, and Frederick Seaborn.

**Lillian Thompson** was born on May 16, 1897 in Taylor, Florida and died on January 17, 1973 in Jacksonville, Florida. She married **Andrew Escoe Green** on December 10, 1917. He was born on February 16, 1898 in Sanderson, Florida and died on December 27, 1963 in Key West, Florida. He worked on road construction for the State of Florida for a number of years and supervised convict labor on state roads.

Lillian and Escoe had six children — Escoe, Jr., Marvin, Winnebelle, Mary Carolyn, Vacey Mazelle, and Charles Marvin.



**Albert David Thompson** was born on August 26, 1913 in Baker County, Florida and died on July 4, 1983 in Duval County, Florida. He married **Johnnie Virginia Horton** who was born on July 1, 1919 in Thomasville, Georgia and died on March 29, 2000 in Jacksonville.

Albert and Johnnie had two children — Virginia Alfreda and Donna Kathryn.

**Romey Edward Thompson** was born on October 2, 1904 in Baker County, Florida and died on July 6, 1975 in Jacksonville, Florida. He married **Mary Ethel Mathis** who was born on September 16, 1907 in Glen St. Mary, Florida and died on June 8, 1988 in Jacksonville, Florida. He originally worked as a barber and later operated a grocery store in Macclenny. In his later years, he became a minister in the Congregational Holiness Church.

Romey and Mary had three children — Myrna Alice, Edward, and Leila.

**William Hampton Thompson** was born on March 28, 1893 in Baker County and died on December 27, 1967 in Nassau County. He married Lelia Janette Collier who was born on May 11, 1899 in China, Texas and died on November 17, 1921 in China, Texas.

**Monroe Thompson** was born on August 14, 1895 in Baker County and died on December 28, 1946 in Baker County. He married Nona T. Gillis. Little is known about Nona except that she had two children by a previous marriage.

Monroe and Nona had three children, Marie, James Monroe, and Marvin.

**Mary Ella Thompson**—my grandmother—was born on December 23, 1890 in Taylor, Florida and died on February 2, 1990 in Tampa, Florida. On March 19, 1911 she married **Edward Jasper Tyson, Jr.** He was born on January 9, 1891 in Lake Butler and died June 21, 1932. Both Mary Ella and Edward Jasper are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny.

A number of years before her death Mary Ella made several recordings for me in which she talked about her family and her life growing up in Baker County. She also shared a lot of recorded information with another one of her grandchildren, Dale Stone, concerning the years following her marriage and the problems of raising a large family after the death of her husband.

The remarks below were tape recorded in the 1970s and are transcribed verbatim.

*“Well, my father was born September 28, 1864 and my mother was born April 13, 1870. I was born December 23, 1890. My father had a home when he and my mother was married out near Taylor and we lived there until I was five years old. We moved to the Wash Rewis place and stayed there two years. Then we moved back to the farm. My father only had five acres of land which wasn’t enough to make a crop for a family. So we stayed there six months and my uncle Eute Rhoden had two home places that had a hundred of acres of land in cultivation. So he came in the spring to get my father to go farm for him on one of his farm places. My father went and we stayed there for four years. And on the fifth day of July, 1900, my father fell in the field with a stroke which paralyzed him from head to foot.”*

*“My sister Annie was born August 29, 1900. The neighbors came in and finished his crop, fattened his hogs, killed them, cured the meat, packed it in barrels and moved my mother the fifth day of December to Macclenny where she could make a living because my father couldn’t work a lick”*



MARY ELLA THOMPSON TYSON



*"We moved out in West Macclenny right behind Ervin and Lucy Rhoden and they didn't have no children—never did—so they wanted Mama and Daddy to give me to them. Naturally, they wouldn't do it so Lucy and Ervin went up—I believe around Live Oak—and they adopted two little girls. Their names were Effie and Mable."*

*"We lived not too far from the Methodist Church and I went to Sunday School there every Sunday morning. Mable was an infant and I carried little Effie to Sunday School every Sunday morning. And then my mother couldn't get enough work she went to work on Barber's nursery. We moved out on what was called the old Lincoln place—that was the home place where the Lincoln family raised their family. We moved there and stayed there a while and then we moved where we were working on Barber's Nursery. So then we moved across the Barber Branch in one of the houses right next to the Branch which had a spring to it and we stayed there until—well probably—two years."*

*"Well, then my Mother got the chance to buy this old home place where we were all raised at, where Lloyd Eddings lived. My mother bought that and me and her, and my oldest brother Hamp paid for it, and we stayed there then the rest of us as long as one of us stayed at home."*

In 1909, while drawing water from the family's well she met a man named Edward Jasper Tyson. They were soon married in her family's living room by a local Judge who was her Sunday School Superintendent. Edward Jasper was a railroad section foreman until he was promoted to the position of Extra Gang Foreman. His job required him to be away from home, supervising 100 men, and traveling to different locations where there had been a washout or a train derailment. His job also included maintaining track in Florida, Georgia, and parts of Alabama.



EDWARD JASPER TYSON

The railroad provided Edward Jasper with his own railroad car and Mary Ella and some of their ten children often traveled with him, living in the railroad car, particularly when the schools were not in session. The family moved frequently, living in railroad section housing, in order to be as close to their father as possible. Times were generally tough, particularly during the early years of the great depression, but the family fared well because of Edward Jasper's position with the railroad.

However, Edward Jasper suffered a fatal heart attack when he was only 42 years old. Mary Ella was four month's pregnant with their 10th child at the time of his death. She was left with 10 children, no home, and very little income. She sold his car and mule and used his insurance money to build a home for herself and the children on a lot given to her by her parents.

In order to provide for her family she had to seek employment away from home. With a new baby it became necessary for her to remove Ruth, one of the older children, from school to care for her and the new baby, Constance Marie. Over the years she worked as a cook for children in a nursery and later in a school kitchen, and as a clerk in her bother Monroe's store. When the store was sold upon Monroe's

death, she went to work in her brother Romey's new store where she sold goods, kept books, and dressed and butchered hogs.

When she reached the age of 60 her children who were grown by then insisted that she stay home and let them take care of her. She eventually moved to Tampa, Florida to live with her youngest child, Constance, where she lived for 37 years prior to her death in 1990.



Mary Ella and Edward Jasper had nine children—. J. C. Edward, Robert Lee, George Dail, Dorothy Edna, A. B., Mary Ella, Agnes Pearl, Constance Marie, and my mother Ruth Geneva.

The three sons each served in the military during WWII. J.C. Edward served in the Army and George Dail served in the Coast Guard. Robert Lee served in the Army and was a veteran of combat service in the European Theatre of Operations. He was awarded Battle Participation Honors for three campaigns and, in addition, was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

After marriage each of the children, with the exception of my mother, moved away from Baker County. Constance and Mary Ella moved to Tampa, J. C. and George Dail moved to Jacksonville, Dorothy Edna moved to Providence, and Agnes Pearl and Robert Lee both moved to Texas.

My mother, Ruth Geneva, married Frank Leslie Hiers and they remained in Macclenny to raise their three children.



MARY ELLA TYSON WITH SEVEN OF HER CHILDREN  
LEFT TO RIGHT—J.C. EDWARD, CONSTANCE, MARY ELLEN, RUTH GENEVA,  
MARY ELLEN, ROBERT LEE, AGNES PEARL, AND GEORGE DAIL.  
(Not pictured, Dorothy Edna & A. B.—all deceased)

### ***MY FATHER'S FAMILY THE HIERS-KNABB LINE***

The Hiers family has been thoroughly researched and studied over the years going back to the 1500s in Germany. Being apprehensive of the troubled conditions of their native Wurternberg for many years, the family finally made the decision to go to a new land across the sea which had been represented to them as a "Promised Land."

They boarded the ship "Ann" on May 12, 1791 in Rotterdam, Holland and arrived at Charleston, South Carolina in late October of 1751. The Governor of South Carolina granted them 300 acres on Savannah Creek near Ehrhardt, South Carolina approximately thirty miles southwest of Orangeburg. Members of my direct family later moved south into Brooks County, Georgia close to the Florida line.

The first connection between the Hiers family and Baker County occurred in the late 1800s when my grandfather's first cousin, **Bryant Dickerson Hiers**, graduated with a law degree from the University of Virginia and came to Macclenny to establish a law practice.

On December 20, 1899 he married **Clara Belle McClenny**, the daughter of Carl Bowers McClenny who was the namesake for the town of Macclenny. Her mother, Ada Darby McClenny was the daughter of John Darby for whom the town had previously been named "Darbyville." They then moved to Ocala shortly before Bryant was called into the military service during the Spanish-American War. After the war he established his law practice in Gainesville. In 1916 he became the County Judge of Alachua County and served continuously in that position until his death in 1941.

Not to be outdone by his brother, several years later **Raiford Alexander Hiers** married **Elsie Alice McClenny**, another daughter of Carl and Ada McClenny.





FRANK LESLIE HIERS SR.

The next connection between my Hiers ancestors and Baker County occurred on December 10, 1906 when my grandfather **Frank Leslie Hiers, Sr. married Caroline (Carrie) Knabb** in Macclenny. Frank Leslie was born on October 12, 1882 in Brooks County, Georgia to William Hiers and Susan Alderman.



CAROLINE (CARRIE) KNABB

Carrie was born on January 24, 1884 in Macclenny and died on May 29, 1966 also in Macclenny. She was the daughter of **James Washington Knabb and Mariah Emma Brown.**

**James Washington Knabb** was born on October 30, 1855 in Bulloch, Georgia and married **Mariah Emma Brown** on December 18, 1879. Mariah was the daughter of James Hugh Brown and Catherine Raulerson. She was born on October, 1862 and died on May 17, 1924.

James and Mariah had twelve children — **Mitta, Lucious, Thomas Jefferson, Eva, Paul, Robert Edward, William, Lucy, Mattie, George, Lizzie,** and my grandmother **Caroline**. A group picture of the family appears on the following page.

Several of their children made significant contributions to the growth and development of Baker County and the Macclenny area. Among these were:



LUCIOUS KNABB

**Lucious Knabb** was born in Baker County on May 6, 1862 and died in Jacksonville on January 9, 1955. He lived in Charleton County, Georgia for a number of years and served in the Georgia Legislature during the administrations of Governors Ed Rivers, Richard Russell, and Eugene Talmadge. He was also owner of the Citizens Bank in Macclenny as well as owning interests in the Griffin Motor Company and the Southern States

Nurseries. In addition, he founded the Guaranty Life Insurance Company of Florida and served as its President. He married **Minnie Lee Dowling** and they had four children—Ralph Earnest, George Colquitt, Gertude Mae, and Cleo.



JAMES WASHINGTON AND MARIAH EMMA BROWN KNABB  
MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS



WILLIAM KNABB

**William Knabb** was born in Baker County on September 24, 1890 and died on October 31, 1971 in Macclenny. On July 30, 1914 he married **Ida Mae Wiggins**, the daughter of Oscar Wiggins and Amanda Terrell, in Alachua, Florida. The Terrell family has been documented back to the 1500s in England. Ida Mae was born on October 20, 1884 in Alachua and died on December 26 in Macclenny. Both William and Ida Mae are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny. William was in the timber business, had a large naval stores operation in Baker County, and was also extensively involved in land development. William and Ida Mae had six children — Earle, Loyce, William, Jr., James Washington, Eloise, and Bernice.





PAUL KNABB

**Paul Knabb** was born in Baker County on February 11, 1895 and died on May 18, 1966. He first married Minnie Lee Hodges on May 5, 1918. She died five months later while he was serving with the U.S. Forces in Europe. He then married Pauline Arline on January 22, 1922 and they

had one child—Lucious Lamarr. Pauline died ten days later and Lucious was reared by Paul's brother Thomas Jefferson Knabb. In September, 1925 he married Gertrude Arline—Pauline's sister—and they had four children—Wanda LaRue, Olen Kenneth, Ruth Ann, and Paul Dewitt. In 1935 he joined the Morman Church where he later held a number of highly responsible positions over the years. In 1964 he and his neice, Loyce Knabb Coleman, conducted and published an extensive study of the genealogy of the Knabb, Brown, and Raulerson families.



CHILDREN OF JAMES WASHINGTON AND MARIAH EMMA BROWN  
Mattie—William—Lucious—Caroline—George—Lizzie—Paul—Robert  
(Not pictured—Lucy, Mitta, Thomas Jefferson—Eva.)



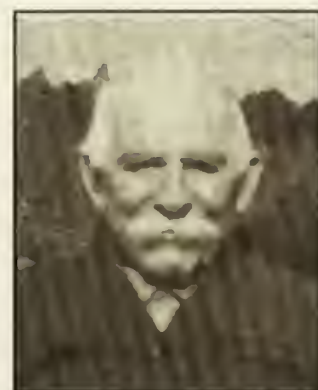
THOMAS JEFFERSON KNABB

**Thomas Jefferson Knabb** was born on May 11, 1880 and died on October 12, 1935 in Macclenny. On May 21, 1902 he married **Leona Howard**. She was born on September 28, 1882 and died on January 12, 1949. They had no children but they raised a nephew, Lucious Lamar Knabb. T. J., as he was known, served as a Florida State Senator from Baker County during the 1921, 1923, 1929 and 1931 Legislative Sessions. He was the sponsor for the bill which established the first Teachers' Pension Plan for the State of Florida. He was one of the founders of the Citizen's Bank of Macclenny and its Vice-President until his death. He was also a successful business man and at the time of his death was owner of 10,000 head of cattle and over 50,000 ares of pine timber land.

When Carrie Knabb married Frank Leslie Hiers, Sr. they initially moved to Brooks County, Georgia where my father, Frank Leslie Hiers, Jr. and his sister Deloris were born. They then moved back to Florida and settled in her home county of Baker. They had seven children — two born in Georgia and five born in Baker County. These included: Edith Deloris, Vernon Eugene, Guy Brooks, James Washington, Lawrence Vivian, Howard Marcy, and my father Frank Leslie Hiers, Jr.

On December 2, 1923, just months after birth of their youngest child, Frank Leslie died leaving Carrie to raise all seven of their children which ranged in age from 9 months to 13 years. Times were hard during the 1920s, particularly the latter part of the decade leading up to the Great Depression, and she found it impossible to bear the total responsibility for raising a large family. In order to adequately provide for the children she sent several to live with relatives. My father, Frank Leslie, Jr., was sent to live with her uncle **George Colquitt Brown**.

"Coll" Brown lived in a home in north Baker County in the community of Baxter close to the Georgia line. The structure was originally built as a "blockhouse" in the early 1820s and was designed to protect pioneer settlers of the area from hostile attacks by Indians.



"COLL" BROWN



The first known resident of the blockhouse was James Burnsed who added bedrooms and a kitchen to convert the original fortress into a home.

In the 1850s, after Burnsed was elected as sheriff of Baker County, the building was purchased by James Hugh Brown who moved his family from Georgia. During the time they lived there it has been reported that a female negro slave drowned six year old Nancy, one of the Brown's young daughters, in a nearby creek and was attempting to drown another when the other slave children ran for and obtained help.



THE "COLL" BROWN PLACE

The surviving daughter, Mariah Emma, later married James Washington Knabb making her the mother of Caroline Knabb and the grandmother of my father Frank Leslie Hiers, Jr.

Mariah Emma's brother George Colquitt Brown married and remained in the house to raise his family after the death of their father, James Hugh Brown. Over the years the house came to be known by our family members as the "Coll" Brown Place."

My father treasured the years he spent with his great-uncle "Coll" Brown and his wife Minnie. I vividly remember in the 1950s him taking my husband and me out from Baxter to see the house he lived in as a child for a period of time.

In later years the building began to deteriorate and a number of local residents of the Macclenny area were successful in getting the structure placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is now known as the oldest structure in Baker County and is believed to be the oldest building of its type in the State of Florida. A number of grants were awarded to aid in the restoration and the building was appropriately named the "Burnsed Blockhouse" on the Register.

In 2001 the building was partially disassembled and moved to Heritage Park in Macclenny where it was totally restored and where it remains as a tribute to the heritage of some of the pioneer settlers of Baker County. I also view it as a part of my family's Baker County heritage.

Of the seven children of Frank Leslie and Caroline Hiers only two remained in Baker County through their adult years — my father Frank Leslie Hiers, Jr. and his brother Lawrence Vivian Hiers.

**Frank Leslie** married **Ruth Geneva Tyson** and they had three children—Elizabeth Ann, Patricia Carolyn, and Duane Leslie. My father established a nursery business in Baker County with a sales yard in Jacksonville which was operated by my mother. His nursery business was later expanded to include a nursery in Manatee County, Florida. The family remained in Baker until they retired in 1975 and moved to Salt Springs, Florida. Both are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny.

**Lawrence** married **Janet "Jimmie" Moore** and they had two children—Sherron and Lawrence, Jr. He became the Northeast Florida distributor for Standard Oil Corporation which, at the time of his death in 1999 was reported to be the longest operating Standard Oil Distributorship in the United States. Both Lawrence and Jimmie are buried in Woodland Cemetery in Macclenny.

After graduating from Stetson University in 1956, I married Carey E. Ferrell, Jr. and moved to Palatka. Some years later we moved to Tallahassee and in 1983 moved to Sanford in Seminole County.

It has been almost 60 years since I moved away and many changes have taken place in Baker County over those years. Many of the homes, including my own, have been replaced by development, family



businesses have been replaced by supermarkets and chain department stores, and many new residents have moved into the County. The names “Tyson” and “Hiers”, once prevalent in the County, no longer appear in the local telephone book. Visiting the downtown Macclenny area today it is very unusual for me to encounter a familiar face. But the memories are still there. Memories— some of hard times, but mostly of good times — growing up in the 1930s , 40s, and 50s.

These memories are reinforced by the writings of Laviece Moser, visits to Heritage Park in Macclenny, and visits with my classmates at reunions of my high school graduating class. Walks through Woodlawn Cemetery in Macclenny also bring back fond memories of the friendship of the great many friends and family, now laid to rest there, Many of my ancestors mentioned herein are also there.

This is where my roots are and, as I said in the beginning, these roots run deep in the history and heritage of Baker County.

---

*County officers for the period of Reconstruction - 1868 to 1877 - were the following:*

COUNTY JUDGE:

William J. Best, December 15, 1868 and September 7, 1869  
William W. Tumblin, November 25, 1869  
J. E. Townsend (ad interim), December 3, 1870  
Samuel N. Williams, March 12, 1873  
Stephen Roberts, December 19, 1874 (resigned)  
Elisha William Driggers, October 3, 1876 (expired).

COUNTY CLERK:

George P. Canova, January 15, 1869  
Benjamin J. Roberts (ad interim), October 31, 1870  
Samuel N. Williams (ad interim), September 28, 1871  
Samuel N. Williams, Jr., March 12, 1873  
John S. Howell, March 17, 1874  
M. Coxe, December 9, 1875 (expired).

SHERIFF:

John W. Howell (ad interim), December 31, 1868, September 9, 1869, and August 18, 1874 (elected senator)  
William Green, March 17, 1875 (resigned October 8, 1875. Some records state he was shot)  
A. A. Allen, March 9, 1876 (expired).

ASSESSOR:

John W. Howell, March 17, 1869 (ad interim), July 23, 1869, May 2, 1872, and February 5, 1874 (later resigned)  
Gordon S. Taylor, April 4, 1876 (expired),

COLLECTOR:

John W. Howell, January 16, 1869, April 3, 1871 ad interim), May 2, 1872, and February 5, 1874 (later resigned)  
Gordon S. Taylor, April 4, 1876 (expired).

TREASURER:

None appointed during Reconstruction.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

Thomas J. Green, January 26, 1870  
John W. Howell, March 13, 1872  
Joseph S. Howell, May 18, 1874 (resigned)  
J. G. Long, August 3, 1875 resigned February, 1876)  
A. A. Allen, March 9, 1876 (expired).

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

George P. Canova, J. E. Townsend, W. J. Barnett, Benjamin H. Gurganus, John M. Joyner (all on November 5, 1868), Ichabod Evans and Alfred Roberts on February 15, 1870, and James S. Davis, John J. Harvey, Benjamin J. Roberts (all on 3 May, 1870).  
Richard Harvey, April 30, 1872 (expired); John J. Harvey, June 12, 1872 (expired); James S. Davis, June 12, 1872 (expired); William C. Cobb, May 9, 1873 (expired); Edward Rowe, September 30, 1873 (expired); Richard Harvey, June 23, 1874 (expired); James S. Davis, August 28, 1874 (expired); William C. Cobb, July 19, 1875 (removed January 10, 1877); Edward Rowe, February 16, 1876 (removed January 10, 1877); John W. Howell, September 4, 1876 (removed January 10, 1877); J. J. Harvey, September 27, 1876 (removed January 10, 1877).

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE:

James H. Lee, January 12, 1869  
A. R. Green, January 26, 1869  
William N. Thomas, January 27, 1869  
John Dorman, October 27, 1869  
A. A. Allen, March 10, 1873  
Gordon S. Taylor, October 19, 1874 (later removed)  
S. M. Roberts, February 5, 1875 (left state)  
John Dorman, July 2, 1876  
William Green, November 11, 1876 (resigned May 4, 1880)



# A National Treasure

**A block fortress of great distinction survives**

On the morning of February 14, 2001, a group of Baker County officials made a very important journey to Jacksonville. Their mission was to request support from Jacksonville businessman, W.W. "Bill" Gay, to finance a project to move a long neglected piece of American history from the backwoods of the county into Heritage Park Village (HPV) for restoration. Traveling with the officials were LaViece Smallwood, executive director of Heritage Park Village, Joe Newmans, longtime friend and employee of Mr. Gay, and local history activist, Attorney Hugh Fish.



McClenny City Manager, Gerald Dopson, former Baker County Sheriff and present W.W. Gay employee, Joe Newmans, County manager, Josie Davis, Bill Gay, Attorney Hugh Fish, and Tommy Lee. Not pictured is LaViece Smallwood, Director, Heritage Park Village

It only took minutes for Bill Gay to pledge his support. He called in his reliable employee and moving expert, Tommy Lee, and instructed him to begin the project that very day.

The important piece of America at issue was a long abandoned historic frontier fortress that had at one time (1971) been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The original

location of the structure, with its steeply pitched roof, was five miles south of the community of Baxter in Baker County, and 16 miles north of Glen St. Mary. The block fortress had been a part of the county's tumultuous history dating from those years when

"Mr. W.W. Gay and those others assisting in the preservation of this historical building deserve an enormous amount of credit for their foresight and future generations will be in your debt. If you follow the country's preservation guidelines to ensure that the integrity of this building is maintained then generations of Americans will benefit from an important part of our country's past history." - Herschel E. Shepard, F.A.I.A. Emeritus Professor, University of Florida School of Architecture.



the county was shifted five times to other counties before boundaries were finally settled. In the late 1990s, the long abandoned house had already been removed from its original site to the nearby farm of Tommy Raulerson, whose ancestors had once lived in the home. Mr. Raulerson, seeing the

**"Only a professional preservationist architect should oversee the preservation of this remarkable building that has been saved from destruction. It will be a tragedy if there is a delay in protecting what remains of this structure so it may continue to inspire future generations." - Mary Ruffin Hanboug, Southern Office National Trust for Historic Preservation**

destruction occurring of the once notable building, had hoped to restore it someday. After Heritage Park Village was organized to store a segment of Baker County's history in 2000, the organizers were contacted by McClenny resident, Chuck Prachar, the husband of Mr. Raulerson's aunt, to consider placing the old house within the historical village for restoration. Mr. Raulerson agreed and with permission from its owner, Dr. Jean Dowling, the block home was deeded to the City of McClenny for stated purposes. It was moved to HPV the same year by Bill Gay at a cost of \$79,880. In addition, Mr. Gay, and his long time friend, J.B. Coxwell, donated an additional \$65,000 to restore the dog trot and dining-kitchen area, said to have been constructed by James Burnsed. Grants (written by Dr. Dowling) and private contributions made it possible for the complete restoration of this complex structure to be saved and not lost as part of our past culture and valued legacy.

For years legends have abounded and narratives have told

**"I can think of no other park or museum setting which is so very oriented to a community than Baker County Heritage Park Village featuring the preservation of the Burnsed Block House." - Walter S. Marder, AIA Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources**

from memories that have been passed down for generations about the structure referred to as the Burnsed Block House because of its determined builder, James Burnsed/Burnside. However, much like the house that escaped destruction, so are the images and reflections of the past. Today a ghostly wind whips through the woodlands where the house once stood for almost two centuries, surviving harsh storms and devastating hurricanes. Falling prey to desertion and desecration by humans, its last protective efforts were to the wood varmints and vandals. Now new stories will be told, new memories will be made and a new generation will gather to walk through her portals...but those who knew her long-ago may yet whisper to the stranger who will come, "This 'ole house



**One of many gun ports for settlers to knock out when rifles or guns were needed to protect the settlers.**

always watched over us". And so.....her story!

In 1822-23, Florida's first Territorial Governor, Andrew Jackson, ordered a string of frontier block homes built from Florida's East Coast to the West Coast. Only the construction of three of these homes can be traced (in Seminole journals), and the frontier block home is the only one of the three recorded known to survive. The purpose of these block dwellings was to protect the pioneer settlers from hostile Indian attacks. To date, records have not been confirmed documenting when the fortress was actually constructed with its block gun ports. However, a four year,



hands-on study that began in the spring of 1981, Professor Blair Reeves, FAIA of the University Of Florida, College Of Architecture, along with graduate architecture students, many historical facts pertaining to the mysterious handiwork of the actual block portion of the structure were revealed and evaluated. Assisting were colleagues Adjunct Professor Hershel Shepard and FAIA Assistant Professor Phillip P. Wisley. These records, and photographs, are available in journals in Heritage Park Village. It is not known at this writing who the government commissioned to build the block portion of the structure, but we do know from research in the Library of Congress, the unique block houses were built by specific plans of the territorial government. James Burnsed only added the additions to the block portion to make the fortress livable. The block portion was built of remarkable craftsmanship using unique dovetail jointing and was executed with extraordinary precision. A pointed post, once found standing on the original site, indicates that originally the blockhouse was in a compound completely surrounded by many of the same type posts higher than a man's head. When Indians were on a war path, neighbors would gather and stay in the complex until things quieted down. Burnsed served in the Second Seminole War. According to Seminole journals, the unique



Edsel Loadholtz, a descendant of the Brown family exposes the faded chiseled date of what seems to be 1862 on back portion of house. Believed to be the date the Brown's daughter, Nancy, was drowned by a Negro woman slave who tied her hair to a log in the creek back of their home. Mrs. Brown was milking the cows, not too far from the creek when some of the slave woman's children ran and told her what was happening. Their daughter Mariah was a baby and she, too, was put in the water but was saved by her mother before she drowned.

"This is the best historical park of its kind I've seen. The focus of the unique fortress is the earliest and best preserved example of its construction known in Florida. It is considered to be of exceptional historical importance to the region and state. The preservation of this once displaced but highly significant cultural resource is commendable." - David E. Ferro, Deputy State Historical Preservation Officer.

craftsmanship of the block fortress resisted the devastation of fiery arrows seeking to destroy it.

With the research of Dr. Jean Dowling, who has owned the house with 160 acres of prime farmland

since the 1950s, we know the construction date could have been as early as 1820-21 when it was ordered built for settler's protection during hostile Indian up-risings.

As the Indians vacated the area, the house stood abandoned until James Burnsed/Burnside, the second sheriff of Baker County, came along and used the block portion of the house to add porches, bedrooms, dog trot and antiquated kitchen-dining area with a clay fireplace. Thus the house became known as the Burnsed Block House. A Burnsed family descendant, Gail Burnsed Spivey, traced 127 Baker County families inhabiting the house over the past 150 years. It is said that Hugh B. Brown, a Civil War veteran, purchased the home from Burnsed and for all legitimate purposes the house should at least share title with his son, George Colquitt (Coll) and Minnie Jane Taylor Brown, and their family who possessed it for more than half a century. Beginning with their marriage in 1904, the couple reared their large family of eleven children within its walls and left a trail of memories dear to the heart of this family and descendants even today.





University of Florida professors Blair Reeves and right Hershel Shepard talk with Village Director LaViece Smallwood. The two men spent four years documenting construction of the block home with their advance architectural students beginning in the spring of 1981.



Far right Walt Marder, Deputy State Historical Preservationist Officer meets with Watson Goodwin, Building Inspector for the City of McClenny, Naomi Roberson, Executive Board member, Ray Jones, Executive Board member, LaViece Smallwood and City Code Official Claude Bagwell to discuss progress of Burnsed Block House preservation program.



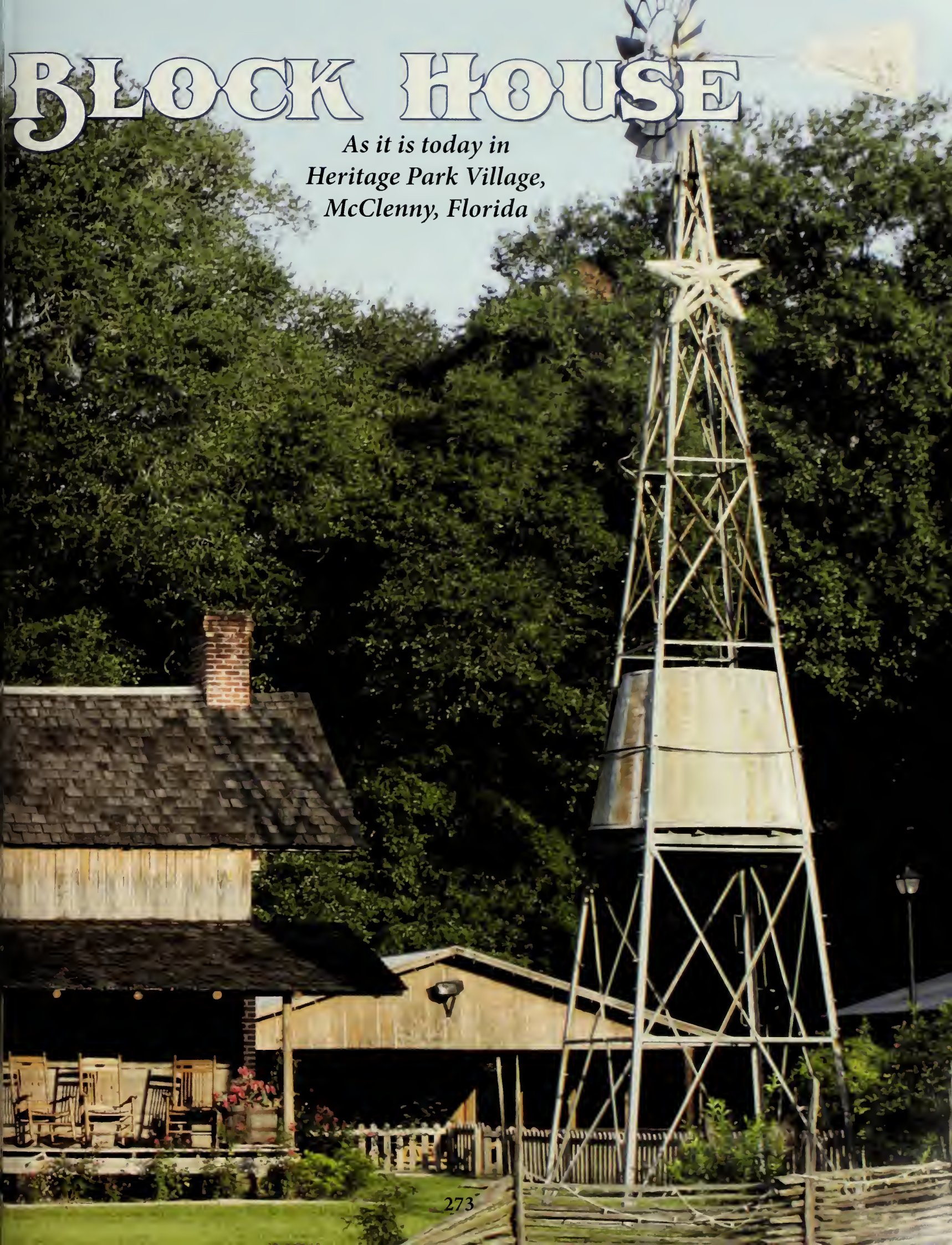
# THE BURNSED





# BLOCK HOUSE

*As it is today in  
Heritage Park Village,  
McClenny, Florida*





# BUILDING BRIDGES

If all the wisdom of the world were contained in a single room, what would be the most important thing to have? The answer, of course, is the key to the room.

I have not had a key to open wisdom's door as I prepare yet another publication on Baker County's rich historical legacy. This is certainly not a completed work, it is a selected work, and more than likely it will have its flaws despite the perfection I sought. I am not a professed historian, nor genealogist. I am one who has a genuine curiosity and deep respect and love for all people. My passion has been to leave behind something of the lives of others so that, in the future, the posterities that follow will be able to see from the portraits a family resemblance or recognize a talent or characterization about themselves that applies to the generations who follow. Most importantly, I want to touch lives in such a way that they will not have passed into complete oblivion, but live on in the hearts of others who follow.

Perhaps I will someday be thought of as a simple bridge builder for those who will come behind me and desire to further this work. Perhaps I will be like one described by Will Allen Dormouse in his:

## THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man traveling a lone highway, came at the evening cold and gray, to a chasm vast and deep and wide, through which was flowing a sullen tide. The old man crossed in the twilight dim, the sullen stream held no fears for him, but he turned when safe on the other side, and built a bridge to span the tide.



*"Old man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You're wasting your time in building here.  
Your journey will end with the closing day:  
You never again will pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
Why build you this bridge at even-tide?"  
The builder lifted his old gray head:  
"Good friend, in the path I have come." He said.  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This stream which has been as naught to me.  
To that fair-haired youth may pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."*

Hopefully this publication will be a bridge to help those who will come along later with a willingness and desire to perfect and add to this effort. I prod them that, "Those who dare, do; those who dare not, do not; and that our heritage is priceless to our rich legacy.

LaViece Smallwood Moser  
McClenny, Florida 2014



*Above is Paige (holding her brother's protective hand)  
and Dylan Danson on Paige's first day of school.  
Below is left to right Zackary Smallwood, III, LaViece,  
Shannon, Vince and Tabitha Smallwood*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would love the satisfaction of knowing I have given credit to everyone who has been helpful in the publication of this book, but obviously I cannot. However, there are key people, whose visible respect for our history has been evident. I feel they should be remembered for without them, I doubt this book would be possible.

First, Dr. Jean Boyd Dowling, my mentor and inspiration. Wilma Cook Morris, a close friend and hoarder of old newspaper clippings, photographs, and bits and pieces of our history. Ms. Fay Milton and her son Billy, two of the kindest people in my lifetime of collecting friendships. Edwin G. Fraser, my mentor since teen-years and his brother Enron who taught me respectable principles to live by and how important to remember our past. And without the love and example of my beloved grandparents, Thomas and Rosie Roberts Fraser, I might never have developed the passion I have for the past. At the end of their lives I was entrusted with their precious picture albums and scrapbooks because Grandpa said, "She'll share with all who is interested". I hope this book reconciles this bequest. And my good friend, Lyoce Knabb Dugger Coleman whose love of genealogy and the preservation of our history was a forerunner of fortitude in collecting and preserving family records. Her granddaughters, Jane Dugger Rhoden and Carolyn Dugger McCullough, who have honored her pursuit in sharing her invaluable work. Without a doubt the historical collections of Gene Barber have been beyond price. The insurmountable hours Carl Wendell Mobley, his sister Dorothy Mobley Barnes, and her husband Elgin have put into gathering pioneer history is priceless.

There are many other people who have contributed to preserving the legacy of our past. The assistance through the years of Naomi Crews Robinson and Bernice Jones Raulerson in searching for the correct identification of unidentified photographs of our pioneer ancestors has been invaluable. Ray Jones who, more than anyone I know, devoted hours upon hours at his own expense, to building Heritage Park Village to prepare a safe place to deposit all of the historical collections of our pioneers. The stories of the early pioneers handed down and passed on by Anita Gilbert Gerson have been priceless.

I owe so much to the hundreds of frontier pioneer families who have shared their personal stories with me that are published in the series of *Once Upon a Lifetime in Baker County Florida* and *Baker's Dozen*.

To those who were supportive of sponsoring this book, it has only been possible with your generosity and I shall be forever grateful for your confidence and conviction that this is an important work for the future generations who desire to know more about the lives of Baker County's Frontier Pioneers.

Last, but actually first, is the most worthy to be recognized. It is our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ. They have left us scripture found in Malachi 5-6 describing the last prophecy in the Old Testament. (5) "Behold, I will send you Elizah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. (6) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." *King James Bible*.

This book is for that purpose.

*LaViece Smallwood Moser*



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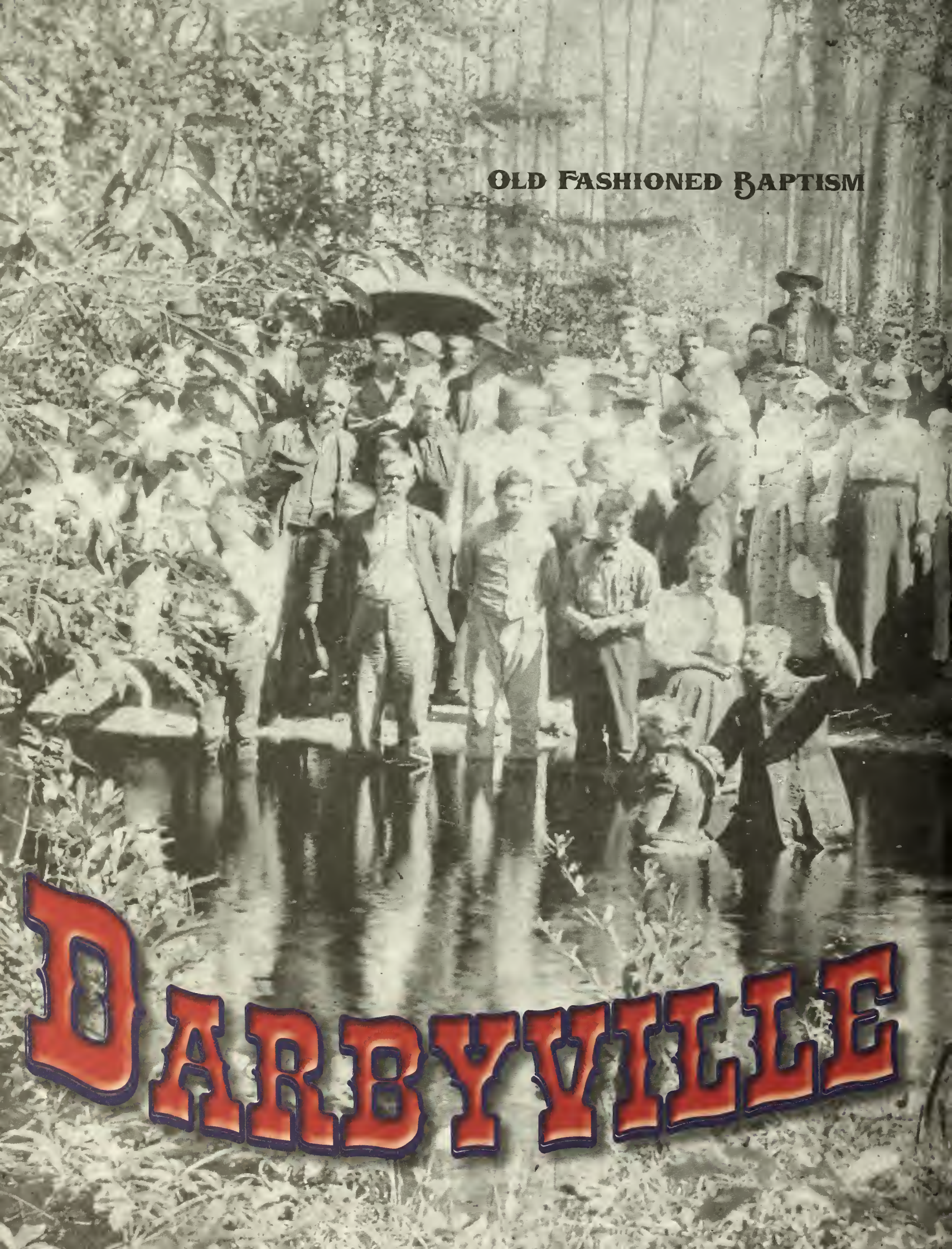








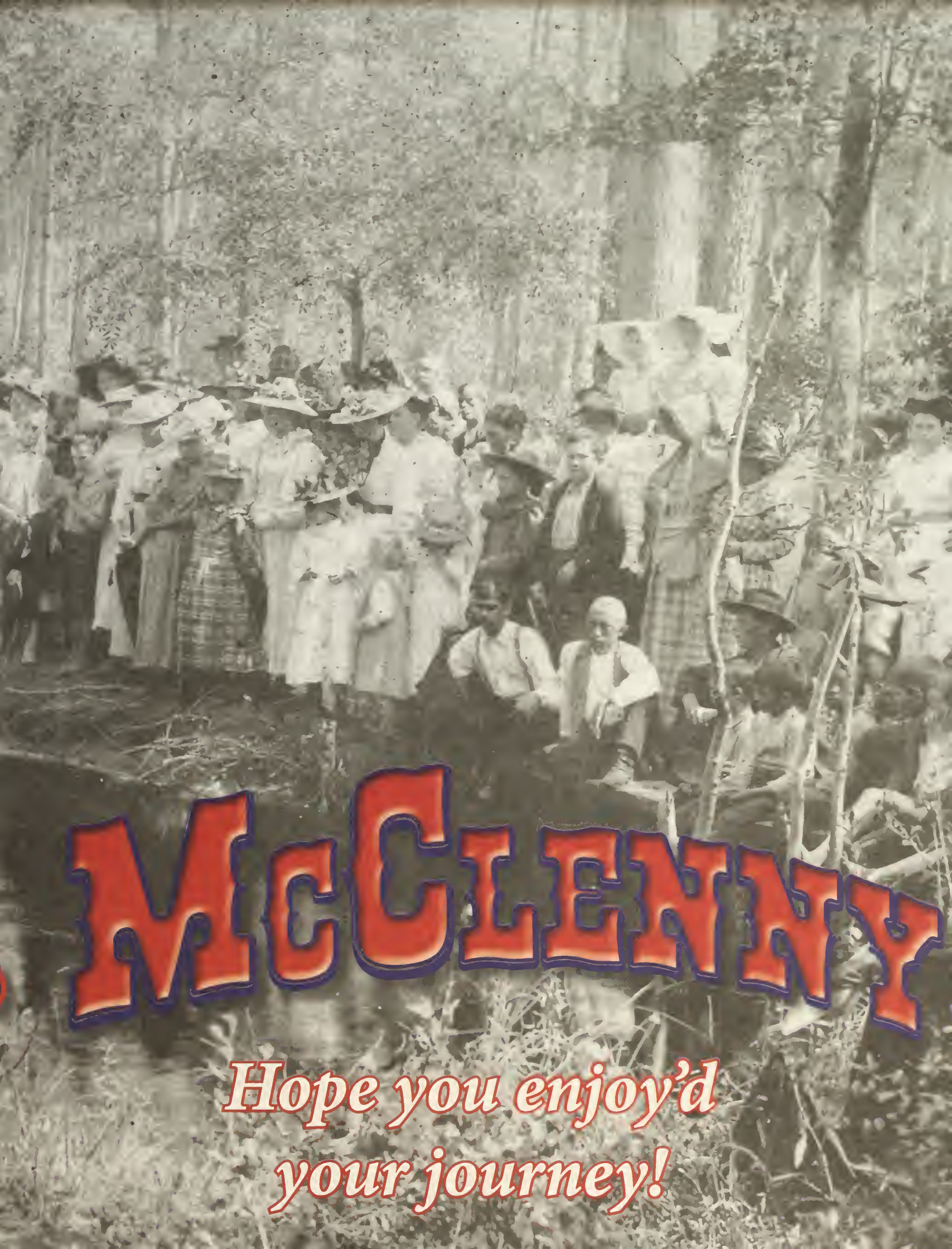




OLD FASHIONED BAPTISM

DARBYVILLE





# McCLENNY

*Hope you enjoy'd  
your journey!*





**John D. McCormick (1875-1958)**

**and Lillie Deliah (Leigh) Thomas McCormick (1888-1940)**

*John D. McCormick brought seven children to his November 26, 1923, marriage to Lillie Deliah Thomas. Lillie brought seven children with her. Together they had four children and that made a total of 18 children beneath the McCormick roof. Often Lillie would laughingly say, "John, your kids and my kids are fighting our kids." Although the McCormick household lived in primitive pioneer conditions and they worked from sun up to sun down tiling the land around them to feed their large family, it was a home filled with joy, laughter, music, and respect for one another. At night, they could lie in their beds and look up through the rafters to see the moon and count the stars or look through the cracks in the floor and count the chickens. Daughter Lillian Dubose once said, "The winter wind blew right through the cracks of our home. I don't imagine the children of this day would survive the conditions of our day."*